

HEADMASTER'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2017





FROM THE HEADMASTER

With the launch of a new School Charter at the beginning of the year, 2017 has been the year of "imagining."

Many classroom Charters have been written since the school adopted Yale University's RULER approach over 7 years ago, so the time for a whole-school Charter seemed right.

The Charter is the culmination of a vast body of work undertaken by the school RULER team and importantly, by students and staff who contributed their thoughts on how they would like to feel when they are at School and the behaviours that are required to support those feelings.

The Charter, titled "Imagine", captures the essence of the School's Mission and Values document and the personality of our School. By asking our school community to 'imagine', the intention is to keep minds open rather than leading the reader of the Charter to a preordained destination.

Every student has been presented with an "Imagine" badge to wear at School, as a tangible reminder of the values that are embodied in the Charter. IMAGINE, in all its forms, has helped create a culture and climate for emotional intelligence to grow, to be

discussed and to be at the forefront of our daily interactions.

We are immensely proud of the Charter, which has been designed to be both aspirational and challenging. What we have created is truly unique and probably the first of its kind in an Australian school.

House Crests and Mottos introduced at Speech Night last year have continued to play an important part in defining the character of each of the beloved Houses. The House system will continue to be the main conduit for delivery of student care within the School and our six Houses will always contribute to the atmosphere of the school.

With our minds open and our values well known, our students and staff have enjoyed a year of belonging and productivity summarised below, with more detail within the body of this report.

SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Delivery of an academic curriculum within a range of core disciplines to support a love of learning, not just a particular subject, continues to be the focus at Girton. There will always be a balancing act between the person and the results, knowing that the best learning is based upon a sound general education.

Whilst preparing our students for the future is imperative, it is equally important not to settle

too soon upon careers for young people. Character, imagination and culture count more in life than does a special knowledge of the technique of a particular calling and our teachers as well as our Student Futures department continue to offer the support our students need to follow passions and to do well.

VCE results in 2016 were again outstanding with a median ATAR score of 83 and 15% of the cohort finishing in the top 5% of the State. Overall, the school was ranked in the top 10% of the State for VCE results.

The 2016 Dux of the School, Sebastian Hawke, achieved a perfect ATAR of 99.95. He was closely followed by three other students who also achieved ATARs above 99. These were Alexandra Liacos and Andrew Kallasmae on 99.55 and Kyle Jacobsen on 99.3.

Sebastian also received a "Top All-Round VCE High Achiever Award" at the 2017 Premier's VCE Awards as well as separate Premier's Awards for English Language and Mathematical Methods. Year 11 student, James Spencer, also received a Premier's VCE Award, in Music: Technical Production (VCE VET).

Five perfect VCE study scores were achieved in subjects as diverse as English Language, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, History: Revolutions and Chemistry.

For the fourth year running, a Girton Grammar student was selected by an independent panel of VCAA Theatre Studies assessors to perform at the prestigious Top Class concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre in March. Bronte Bailey was one of only 20 students selected state-wide for Top Class and was in Year 11 at the time of selection.

In other areas of the curriculum, the "Flip the Classroom" pedagogical model continues to be implemented in Year 7 to 10 by the Science and Maths departments, with continuous review of the best ways to implement this collaborative teaching approach.

The introduction of laptops at Year 7 continues to roll out and students currently in Years 8 - 11 who are using iPads for classroom learning are being encouraged, at the time when replacement of their device becomes necessary, to change over to laptops as a more flexible learning tool.

The Arrowsmith programme has now completed two successful years of its three-



year pilot and will continue to run next year.

The student mentor “Strive” programme for VCE students, which was introduced in 2016, has been successfully used again this year to pair high achieving VCE graduates from recent years with current students, providing confidence and guidance in study techniques. The programme will continue in 2018.

The Girton Sports Excellence Programme continues to grow, with an expansion this year of the programme into the Junior School (Years 5 and 6). The programme now features three general levels – Foundation (Years 5 and 6), Intermediate (Years 7 and 8) and Elite (Years 9 and 10). Participants progress through these levels as they attain the strength, mobility, co-ordination and knowledge, to allow them to move safely to the next level.

CO-CURRICULUM

The co-curriculum programme at Girton is very intentionally positioned and delivered in a way that assumes an importance that is comparable to that of the academic programme. With more than 70 activities offered in Sport, Music, Drama, Personal Development and Community Services, ranging from elite sport to hobby-based activities, every student can find a place to belong and to follow their passions.

This year, an extensive review of the Co-curriculum programme was conducted to ensure we continue to deliver a programme that is unrivalled in the region. The review showed strong support for the programme from both teachers and parents and it will continue to be a central pillar of the school's ethos of developing the ‘whole child’.

Just a few of the co-curricular highlights for this year follow, with more activities detailed within this report.

The Girton Racing Team returned from competing in an international event for Energy Efficient Vehicles with US\$3,000 in prize money and the Technical Innovation Award. The team placed 9th overall in an international field of over 50 entrants and was the only school team in the competition.

For the fifth time, a group of Year 10 science students in the Engineering and Science co-curricular group, were the overall winner of Melbourne University's Amazing Spaghetti Machine Contest, this time, for design and construction of an ingenious can crushing machine. In a clean sweep of the competition,

the team was also awarded The People's Choice Award and the Technical Excellence Award.

Our school netball teams continue to go from strength to strength, with the introduction last year of the “NetFit” Netball Academy, a 10 week elite training programme, where expert coaches work with the girls on mastering correct technique, space awareness, decision making, reading the play and empowering players to grow their leadership skills.

The Girton Basketball Club also continues to grow and reach new levels of excellence with coaches from the Bendigo Braves and Bendigo Spirit having a positive impact on the Club and many teams reaching finals in both the summer and winter seasons.

On the track, we had several students well placed in various track meetings, including the Loddon Mallee Regional Athletics Carnival where several students went on to compete in the State level competition.

Our netball, basketball, hockey and soccer teams did us proud to win the 2017 ICCES Winter Sports Tour.

COMMUNITY

Whilst our students are expected to understand the value of giving something back to the community in which they live, the myriad ways that our students serve the community is largely driven by the students themselves, from a culture of giving that has built up over time and continues to bring students of all ages together within the school.

From the Red Shield Appeal door knock, to Shave for a Cure, Australia Day celebrations, RUOK Day and raising funds for earthquake victims in Nepal, the students have been busy donating their time and energy to a range of causes.

The music students who supported the Forever Young community choir this year put on a spectacular show, performing alongside Australian rock legend, Mark Seymour. This event is a wonderful opportunity for the students to support a passionate and dedicated group of senior citizens and to work alongside the best in the business.

A graduating group of Year 12 students travelled to Cambodia and Thailand after their final examinations to work with the Father Ray Foundation, with which the school has a long association. The students provided assistance in schools and farms run by the Foundation and immersed in the historic

and cultural aspects of the region. The trip has become affectionately known as the ‘alternative schoolies’ trip, a pleasing reflection on the maturity and compassion of all those involved.

The Sporting Chance Programme is now in its fifth year of operation and is making a real difference to the lives of children on the Autism Spectrum right across the Bendigo region. This modified and inclusive sports program is run with volunteer students working alongside Girton teachers, acting as mentors and coaches. The opportunity for our students to work with other young people and to help them gain the skills to be able to participate in mainstream sports teams is invaluable.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Our student wellbeing programme continues to expand and to strengthen with Emotional Intelligence at its core.

The three main things that the school will continue to do to prepare students for adulthood are;

to explicitly teach our students how to manage their emotions

to show young people how to be an adult through excellent role modelling and

to provide students with a huge range of formal opportunities outside the classroom for friendships to flourish and passions to be nurtured.

Emotions can spread quickly from person to person and this emotional contagion is something that is currently working very much in the School's favour, where a culture of optimism permeates the daily interactions of students and staff.

We will continue to implement the RULER Approach to emotional intelligence and to provide Personal Development classes in all year levels, as well as inviting experts to the School on a range of subjects that build life skills.

LOOKING FORWARD

Girton Grammar School turns 25 next year. In 1993, Girton College was reinvented almost overnight to become the school that we know today, thanks to the unwavering commitment, industriousness and ingenuity of many people, some of whom are still at the School, including founding Headmaster, Mr Clayton Jones OAM, who will retire at the end of this year.





Mr Jones' departure from the School marks the end of an era on which strong foundations for growth have been built. Mr Jones has been more than a Headmaster to this School. His determination to provide a first-class education to as many students as possible and his unwavering commitment to high standards in all matters of school life have left an indelible mark on Girton Grammar School and on the students and staff fortunate enough to work alongside him.

It has been over 20 years since the school uniform has been updated so earlier this year we introduced a refreshed uniform with updated fabrics and shapes. With two years of the sunset period remaining, mixing of the old and new sports and school uniforms will continue. As in times past, the school is ever conscious that a new uniform can create an imposition on families and our intention has always been to make the introduction of the new uniform as easy on families as possible. Feedback from students on the new uniform items has been extremely positive and we look forward to the full implementation of the new uniform by 2020.

The \$5 million refurbishment of the Jean

d'Helin building Junior School is magnificent. It is light and bright with visually connected learning spaces as well as circulation spaces for additional learning and group work. The building has completely re-shaped the Junior School, creating 12 new light filled learning spaces and centralised staff spaces that will see our Junior School having the very best facilities well into the future.

We will continue to refine Astra as the key tool that links school with home and staff with one another. Since launching the platform earlier this year, several refinements have been made based on student, parent and staff feedback and we will continue to make sure that this tool is secure, informative and useful. By using ASTRA, students have access to the curriculum documentation relevant to each of the subjects they are undertaking. They can also read their timetables and relevant bulletins as well as record homework or any other commitments. Especially designed for Australian schools, ASTRA is proving to be a useful tool that we will continue to use for the foreseeable future.

Constant review of our business administration helps to ensure we are

efficient and accurate in our communication with parents. The introduction this year of CareMonkey is one example of the process improvement we constantly seek. The new system will negate the need to fill out the same health information for multiple purposes throughout the year, such as camps and excursions, reducing the burden on parents and guardians and on school administration.

It has been another productive, enjoyable and positive year at Girton Grammar school thanks to many people, not least our students, who are the keepers of our wonderful school culture. Our staff have been excellent school ambassadors and role models, and I thank them for their dedication to instilling hope in our students' learning and lives.

My thanks also extend to the Board, who work tirelessly to ensure that the business of running a large organisation is done in such a way that Girton is able to provide the very best education to as many young people as possible.

Matthew F. Maruff
Headmaster





POPULATION

The accompanying table shows the distribution of student population since 2007. You will notice that at the time of the census we had a student population of 1163 but at the time of writing it is in fact 1159. (CHECK WITH LOU BEFORE GOING TO PRINT)

Student Population using August Census data

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Preparatory	43	36	50	34	38	38	54	47	38	38
1	38	46	35	50	35	40	38	58	47	37
2	37	40	44	42	58	38	44	43	60	49
3	27	45	40	49	50	59	52	58	43	57
4	37	26	50	50	68	59	64	54	63	52
5	50	46	44	52	67	75	63	79	60	72
6	65	70	61	74	73	77	93	74	107	80
JS Total	297	309	324	351	389	386	408	413	418	385
7	143	132	146	129	135	151	137	126	114	132
8	146	145	131	140	139	135	143	135	127	115
9	121	142	144	135	140	137	136	149	134	128
10	124	123	141	148	139	148	133	128	143	135
11	118	116	115	130	122	116	104	121	114	134
12	97	113	113	111	126	117	119	101	113	112
SS Total	749	771	790	793	801	804	772	760	745	756
Total Population	1046	1080	1114	1144	1190	1190	1180	1173	1163	1141

STAFF

As of October 9th 2017, the staffing numbers were as follows:

Non-teaching (Part and Full time) 65
Teaching (Part and Full Time) 145
Total Staff (Part and Full Time) 210

These figures do not include casual teachers and music tutors employed on a fee-for-service basis. It is also important to remember that the actual number can fluctuate markedly with various forms of leave (parental leave, long service leave, leave without pay, extended sick leave) and various forms of contracts (temporary replacements from a day to three-years, casual, limited term and ongoing).

Up to October 9th 2017, staff members have taken a combined total of 1134 personal leave days including sick leave, carer's leave etc. (N.B. These figures can be affected considerably by one or two long term absences).

This equates to 5.4 days per person consisting of:

- Teaching staff: 684 days or average of 4.7 days each
- Non-Teaching staff: 450 days or 6.9 days each (N.B. These figures can be affected considerably by one or two long term absences)

Staff Arrivals since the end of the 2016 school year:

Ms Helen Brown Teacher of Japanese
 Mr Ian Cleeland Junior School Teacher of Science (Leave replacement)
 Miss Aleisha Dullard Accounts Receivable & Absentees
 Mr Ben Furphy Senior School Teacher (Leave replacement)
 Mrs Tanya Giuliani Integration Aide
 Mr Matthew Greenwood Teacher of Humanities (Leave replacement)

Mr Casey Haynes Co-curricular Kayaking Coach
 Mr Edward Higgs Junior School Teacher (Leave replacement)
 Mr Philip Kelynack Sessional Music Teacher
 Mr Chris Landvogt Senior School Teacher of Science
 Mrs Kirsten Maruff Teacher of Humanities
 Mr Jacob McGuffie Sessional Music Teacher
 Mr Michael Norris Senior School Teacher (Leave replacement)
 Ms Jessica O'Hara Integration Aide
 Miss Fanomezana Rasoarahona Teacher of French
 Mrs Christabelle Ryan Junior School Teacher
 Ms Emma Wade Sessional Music Teacher
 Mr Reece Wheelhouse Maintenance
 Ms Sally Whelan Integration Aide
 Ms Sally-Ann Young Absentees





The following colleagues have departed:

Mr Sam a'Beckett Appointed as Head of House at Geelong Grammar School

Mrs Sally Bellingham Resigned

Mr Ian Cleeland End of Contract

Mr Warwick Cohen Resigned

Mr Grant Davis Retired

Ms Brigid Evans Resigned

Mrs Stephanie Eldridge Maternity Leave

Mr Matt Greenwood End of Contract

Ms Angie Hamilton Retired

Mrs Marijke Horvath Retired

Mr Clayton Jones OAM Retired

Mrs Sandra Kroker Retired

Mr Chris Lees Resigned

Mrs Donna Lierse End of Contract

Mrs Judith Lingard Resigned

Ms Jessica Moloney End of contract

Mrs Elli Monro Teaching role at Mentone Grammar School

Mr Joe Monro Teaching role at Mentone Grammar School

Mr Bill Montgomery Retired

Mr Michael Norris End of Contract

Mrs Judith Oliver Retired

Ms Yumi Onodera Resigned

Ms Amanda Showler Appointed as Head of Learning Diversity & Inclusion at Kardinia International School

Mrs Judy Thompson Resigned

Ms Gemma Tomlinson Resigned

Mr Jake Warren Resigned

Ms Emily Williamson Resigned

Ms Ashleigh Yeates Resigned

Other staffing changes made during 2017

Mrs Marita Austin Returned from Maternity Leave to PA to Head of Services and Student Futures

Mrs Amber Weston Commenced and returned from Maternity Leave

Mrs Cally Bartlett Maternity Leave

Mrs Erin Buckeridge Maternity Leave

Mrs Olivia Eaton Maternity Leave

Ms Barb Fielder Acting Head of Humanities

Miss Vanessa Juergens Maternity Leave

Mrs Amanda Lilburne Head of Transition

Mrs Elli Monro On leave all year

Mr Joe Monro On leave all year

Mrs Erin Moss Assistant Head of Transition

Mrs Samantha Naunton Maternity Leave

Ms Jennifer Schatzle Acting Assistant Head of Frew House

Mrs Belinda Vernon Acting Head of Learning Resource Centre





GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017: THE STUDENTS' VIEWS

73 students from Year 12, 2017 completed the Survey a few days before they finished regular classes in late October. Our students were asked to consider any and all of the teachers' roles - classroom teaching, pastoral care, co-curricular leadership. Students, in my experience are perceptive and generous and their views certainly inform mine.

For teachers teaching Year 12 classes this year, there were 392 ratings provided. Using the usual Very High to Very low scale, and where Medium indicates the capable, "Happy-enough" performance, the results were

Rating	Very High (=5)	High (=4)	Medium (=3)	Low (=2)	Very Low (=1)
Number of this rating given	185	127	44	20	16
Total answers	392	392	392	392	392
Percentage of all ratings given	47%	32%	11%	5%	4%
Mean = 4.14. Std Deviation = 1.07. Median = 5					

Year 12 also rated teachers who had taught or mentored or coached them in all years. 1451 ratings were given in this category. The same scale was used. The results were.

Rating	Very High (=5)	High (=4)	Medium (=3)	Low (=2)	Very Low (=1)
Number of this rating given	696	464	208	54	29
Total Answers	1451	1451	1451	1451	1451
Percentage of all ratings given	48%	32%	14%	4%	2%
Mean = 4.20. Std Deviation = 0.95. Median = 5					

Overall 92% provided ratings which were Medium or better. The figure for Overall Teaching Quality" overleaf, asked separately, has different figures that question tends to diminish the highly negative ratings. We still have a way to go in improving the performance of our teachers and good work is being done.





Programme	Ratings => VH (5)	High (4)	Medium (3)	Low (2)	Very Low (1)
Range of Curriculum Offered	25 (34.25%) Mean= 4.18	39 (53.42%) SD 0.75	7 (9.49%) Median = 4	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)
Teaching Quality Overall	30 (41.1%) Mean = 4.29	37 (50.61%) SD 0.75	4 (5.48 %) Median = 4	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)
Overall Co-Curriculum	41 (56.16%) Mean = 4.45	26 (35.62%) SD 0.74	5 (6.85%) Median = 5		1 (1.37%)
Sport	33 (45.21%) Mean = 4.33	33 (45.21%) SD 0.72	6 (8.22%) Median = 4		1 (1.37%)
Music	46 (63.01%) Mean = 4.53	22 (30.14%) SD 0.72	4 (5.8%) Median = 4		1 (1.37%)
Dance	15 (20.55%) Mean = 3.67	29 (39.73%) SD 0.98	21 (28.77%) Median = 3	6 (8.22%)	2 (2.74%)
Drama	38 (52.05%) Mean = 4.29	21 (28.77%) SD 0.88	12 (16.44%) Median = 4	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)
Service & Leadership	39 (53.42%) Mean = 4.34	25 (34.25%) SD 0.88	5 (6.85%) Median = 5	3 (4.11%)	1 (1.37%)
Leadership shown by Senior Staff	36 (49.32 %) Mean = 4.38	32 (43.84%) SD 0.75	3 (4.11%) Median = 5	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)
Pastoral Care & the House	41 (56.16%) Mean = 4.41	23 (31.51%) SD 0.79	8 (10.96%) Median = 5		1 (1.37%)
Other Students' friendliness, inclusiveness etc	30 (41.1%) Mean = 4.00	29 (39.73%) SD 0.85	12 (16.44%) Median = 5	1 (1.37%)	1 (1.37%)
Range of Opportunities for you and other students	36 (49.32%) Mean = 4.26	25 (34.25%) SD 0.91	8 (10.96%) Median = 5	3 (4.11%)	1 (1.37%)





THE JUNIOR SCHOOL IN 2017

Mr Don Thompson
Head of Junior School

In 2017 Junior School enrolments peaked at 388 students. This year has been our first full year in the newly refurbished d'Helin building with the completion of the major renovation and refurbishment at the end of 2016. Our senior students have enjoyed the new learning spaces while teaching and administration staff have occupied the new Junior School Administration and Staff rooms on the ground floor. The move into the new Junior School Administration offices also allowed us to redevelop the old Junior School Reception offices into Junior School Learning Support spaces. This included a dedicated HQ space, Arrowsmith space and dedicated Literacy and Numeracy spaces. We were also able to provide dedicated Language learning spaces for 2017.

This year was an eventful one for our Junior School sporting teams with several of our teams progressing from the District competitions through to the Regionals with one team going all the

way through to the State Finals. Our girls had a particularly successful year with our Girls Soccer, Netball and Hockey teams all progressing through to the Regional finals in Swan Hill. One of our girls also qualified for the Regional Tennis finals in Tennis. Our Soccer team went one better by winning the Regional Finals which qualified them for the State Finals. At the State Finals they qualified top of their pool which saw them qualify for the Grand Final. They lost to Hampton Primary School in the final which meant they were State Runner's Up, a wonderful result for a team with only 6 soccer players.

Our Junior School Aeroschools teams also had great success at the National Championships this year with our Mini-trios coming 2nd and 3rd, our Junior Division 1 team coming 4th and our Junior Level 3 trio coming 7th. In addition to the team successes we also had some excellent individual sporting results. Ruby Conti achieved a gold in her individual and team events at the National Aerobic Championships. Earlier in the year Ruby became a world champion when she and her team won the gold medal at the World Aerobic Titles in Arizona.

It was a year for international representation with Hannah Green representing Australia

in Luxembourg in August. Hannah won the opportunity to represent Australia through her success at the Table Tennis Federation Oceania Challenge held in Tweed Heads in April. Hannah won the gold medal at the event while her twin sister Olivia won Silver. Both girls also represented Victoria at the National Table Tennis Championships in Hobart where they won the gold medal in the teams event and bronze in the pairs. Olivia also won bronze in singles.

In May students in Year Three and Year Five sat the National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assessments. These tests are compulsory National assessments for all students in Years Three, Five, Seven and Nine. The assessments are administered under formal examination conditions. While we must recognise that each NAPLAN element is a reflection of how students perform on a single test on a given day they are a tool in providing a standard measure against a large data sample. The initial data provided by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) provides feedback of our performance against the results of other Victorian schools. Further data allowing comparisons nationally are usually provided early next year.

Year Three NAPLAN Results 2017

		Students	10th	25th	median	75th	90th	Mean
READING	State	70,821	336	387	441	502	564	446
	School	55	345	405	443	497	548	452
WRITING	State	70,519	356	389	434	469	494	428
	School	55	362	408	444	464	486	436
SPELLING	State	70,757	316	369	424	479	530	423
	School	55	303	376	435	496	536	428
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	State	70,757	324	387	452	515	575	450
	School	55	380	430	460	503	547	466
NUMERACY	State	70,794	326	368	418	470	522	421
	School	55	357	390	434	474	518	435





Year Five NAPLAN Results 2017								
		Students	10th	25th	median	75th	90th	Mean
READING	State	70,686	418	462	513	567	616	516
	School	71	425	479	518	577	616	524
WRITING	State	70,501	417	457	486	519	557	486
	School	71	435	462	490	519	570	490
SPELLING	State	70,660	414	460	506	551	589	504
	School	72	406	483	529	570	602	515
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	State	70,660	399	449	503	560	617	506
	School	72	406	463	520	576	629	525
NUMERACY	State	70,477	421	456	498	544	590	503
	School	71	439	467	505	545	591	508

Data provided by Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA)

Analysis of our NAPLAN data for Years Three and Five indicates that our students have performed above the State averages in all aspects tested however, results are lower than last year's cohorts in both Year Three and Five. While our average student performance is above State level across all aspects of the NAPLAN testing we have

identified that there is work to be done to improve performance, particularly in Reading and Spelling. This was evident when examining data over the past 5 years. The 2017 Year Three cohort results were above the 5 year average in all areas except Spelling. The Year Five cohort results were below the 5 year average in all aspects. We have also recognised that

more can be done to extend our higher performing students in Year Three and Five. Throughout the year Junior School staff have been reviewing the curriculum and identifying ways to improve delivery. Staff have also continued to develop assessment tools that map student progress throughout the year so that they can provide targeted teaching.





BURSAR'S REPORT

Mr Neville Faulks
Bursar

2017 was the first time in many years that we have not been actively engaged in designing or constructing a new building which has allowed us to concentrate on reducing our debt and further improving the strong financial position of the School. Furthermore, the brief pause has allowed us take stock of all our existing facilities across the campus and conduct improvement works and development plans for the future.

Some of the works conducted through the year include the construction of acoustic baffles in the ceiling space of the Black Box to improve the sound quality of drama and music performances. Thanks to the generous assistance of the Girtton Grammar Parents' & Friends' Association, we were able to make further improvements to the Black Box with the addition of comfortable tiered seating.

The gymnasium received the addition of timber wall paneling in the foyer and enhanced wall protection from ball damage on the courts. New and improved staging was purchased along with a black curtain back drop to create a more formal assembly presentation area on Court 1.

Several classrooms have benefited from being redesigned to create additional classroom space and a more suitable learning environment as well as incorporating access to a study room without disturbing classes.

Small building works have been conducted to create an additional office space and a parent meeting room in the Christopher J Morey Building and some joinery works created improved storage and presentation of the Performing Arts kitchen and canteen.

New safety rails and stainless steel handrails have been added around the School while the usual programme for painting and carpet replacement continues along with identifying spaces for improvement in the future.

Planning work has commenced on a Junior School Campus Master Plan which will allow the School to plan, prioritise and budget for future playground redevelopment works ensuring visual continuity and improved construction standards across the campus over time. This plan will also allow consideration of where tree planting is necessary to provide future shade and amenity as existing trees decline. It will consider dominant circulation corridors for students, requirements for emergency access and egress as well as defining spaces in relation to their adjacent student population. The Campus Master Plan will show the layout and intent of spaces and landscape elements creating a seamless flow between gardens and passive and active recreation areas with the use of new synthetic turf, rubber soft fall and improved seating.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Mr Rick McWaters
Head of Pastoral Care & Student Wellbeing

A connected and engaged student leads the way to an inspired and successful one. A student who is well known and cared for is the aim of student wellbeing at Girtton Grammar School. The major vehicle for student wellbeing is the House system. The Micro culture developed by the unique blend of staff, students and traditions which provides the students with the opportunity to lead, serve school and community, compete on the sporting arena, perform on a variety of stages or address an audience. Skill and self-efficacy contribute to the Academic growth of our students. The year culminates with the Annual House Dinner, a celebration organized by the students, for the students and the staff members of that House.

AHERNE HOUSE

Head of House Mrs C. Brewin
Assistant Mr N. Pease
House Captains Samuel Cox
Michaela Hulme
Vice Captains Henry Coventry
Cassandra Liacos
School Captain Jemima Morris
Senior Prefects Alexander O'Shea
Sophie Gladman
House Prefects Myles Blum
Caleb Ellis
Khaden Jones
John Lavery
Emma Webb

Known as the "Family House" it is no surprise that the highlights of the Aherne year included Grandparents Day in Term 3 in the Black Box where forty grandparents from Years 7,8 and 9 Aherne enjoyed afternoon tea supplied by Year 9 Aherne, a tour of the school and performances from Aherne students. The Annual Aherne Family Night was held in Term 2 in John E Higgs Hall with 250 in attendance including students, parents and grandparents.

Entertainment for the night including singing, musical items, dances, magic tricks, the traditional opening Aherne Big Band Act, the Year 12 Act, the Aherne Staff Video and the highlight being the song and dance performed by the Aherne Mums. Money was collected for students who were participating in Shaving for a Cure and a Silent Auction also raised money for the Centre of Non-Violence in Bendigo. The night was organised by Year 10 Aherne.

FREW HOUSE

Head of House Ms R. Kurrle
Assistant Mrs J. Schatzle
House Captains Samuel Hilson
Gracie Jackel
Vice Captains David Russell
Ruby McCubbin
School Vice-Captain Jamieson Crawford
Senior Prefects Benjamin Pignataro
Declan Rochford
House Prefects Samuel Chandler
Ryan Clegg
Jonathan Garoni
Isabella Keogh
Lilian Harvey
Hannah Martin

Athleticism and performance has highlighted the "Year in Red". Frew House completed thirteen straight title wins in the Athletics Sports. In performance the Annual Frew Idol festival involved all students. Tutor Groups were given the theme of 'Gilbert and Sullivan'. They found this quite difficult but there was value introducing so many young people to a genre with which most were not familiar. There were some very clever renditions of 'On the List' with words changed to match school events and personalities. Although Year 12 ended up winning the event, the Year 8s gave a very strong and hilarious performance.

JENKIN HOUSE

Head of House Mrs C. Phillips
Assistant Mrs K. Stewart
House Captains Liam Richardson
Erin Taylor
Vice Captains Connor McCaig
Polly Barnett
School Captain Jemuel Pryse
Senior Prefects Kavindu Hathurusinghe
Nicola James
Tessa McNaulty
House Prefects Milos Babovic
Maya Mann
Teagan Scott

Success has been a common theme throughout the year for the people of the Orange House. Victory in the pool and high placings in other areas show that Jenkin is the participation house, culminating in the winning of the House Cup for 2017.

To consolidate Jenkin House connectedness the following events occurred: meals with various Tutor Groups, breakfast in the park, winter soup lunch, pizza lunch and Christmas Celebrations. We even had a horse visit a House Assembly. Jenkin Year Level Semester Newsletters continue to be a success with parents and students. An innovation





this year has been the Jenkin of the Year; An Award to recognize a member of the Jenkin Community for their contribution to the House. This person demonstrates leadership, compassion, humility and above all integrity. For 2017 the Jenkin of the Year is Teagan Scott 12.

JONES HOUSE

Head of House	Mr N. Vernon
Assistant	Ms J. Grech
House Captains	Harrison Waller Adele McGaffin
Vice Captains	Thomas Ayars Emily Shoebridge
School Vice-Captain	Lucy Morgan
Senior prefects	Harvey Gibbs Rory Marshall
House Prefects	Jake Fletcher

Jones House, led by a very strong student leadership team and supported by dedicated staff have enjoyed a year of watching the further embedding of a culture that epitomises the motto *Nullus Fructus Sine Labore* (No Reward Without Effort). Apart from the notable achievements (listed) there have been many smaller, yet significant, gains by students on a day-to-day basis that highlight what a nurturing and supportive House Jones is. During Jones House Week \$500 was raised for Servant's Heart Relief (Sudan and East-Africa) and House for a house (fundraising for house building with AusNep which is non-profit foundation re-building Nepal).

MILLWARD HOUSE

Head of House	Mr S. a'Beckett
Assistant	Ms M. Watanabe
House Captains	Peregrine Hawke Chaise Priestley
Vice Captains	Kai Andrews Hally Nyhus
Senior Prefects	Montague Velthuis Eva Scopelliti Bailey Edwards
House Prefects	Bronte Bailey Cara Humphrey Alexander Nielsen

Performance and Oration were keynotes for Millward this year, with the House winning the Inter-House Singing and Public Speaking. Millward House welcomed many of its community to the Grandparent afternoon, eager Millwardians sharing their House and School with their families. The focus for the Millward House Week was Youth Cancer and they raised funds for that cause. The House, whilst sad, bids farewell to Mr a'Beckett after 3 years at the helm. He has done much for the house that prides itself on courage, compassion and camaraderie.

RILEY HOUSE

Head of House	Mr D. Martin
Assistant	Mr C. Whitsed
House Captains	Harrishman Shobanan Prudence Whitely
Vice Captains	Kayle Thompson Jemma Kulbars
Senior Prefects	William Archibald Rani Madden
House Prefects	Miranda Knowles

Riley House week presented information on health and well-being every day in the News section of *Astra*, leading to the whole school R U OK day Staff/Student soccer match on Friday. The Prefects wanted to raise the awareness of these critical components for health and well-being. The issues presented were Sleep, Diet, Exercise and R U OK. The intention was for each Tutor Group to read and discuss the information presented and then answer a daily quiz for the topic. Ten Riley were the eventual winners of the quiz although the Riley House Prefects were hoping much of the Senior School were made aware of some facts that can affect their health and well-being.

Results of Inter House Competitions were as follows-

Swimming Sports

Champions – Jenkin House
Spirit Cup - Frew House

Athletics Sports

Champions – Frew House
Spirit Cup – Jones House

Cross Country

Champions – Jones House

Public Speaking

Winners – Millward House

House Singing

Winners – Millward House.

Overall House Cup Winners – Jenkin House

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The formal election protocol at the School in 2017 has seen the election of its student leaders and their fine contribution to the community. Each candidate must complete a formal application to establish their eligibility, have a formal interview and deliver a leadership speech. All members of the secondary school, students and staff, then vote electronically. In 2017 we had –

- 2 School Captains and 2 Vice Captains
- 14 Senior Prefects and 20 House Prefects
- 45 Co curricular Captains
- 12 House Captains and 12 House Vice Captains
-

HOUSE COLOURS

Each year students are given the opportunity to achieve the award of Full or Half House Colours.

Full House Colours are awarded in Years 10, 11 and 12. Half House Colours are awarded in Years 7, 8 and 9.

A student is eligible to be considered for House Colours by demonstrating a breadth of involvement in the life of the School.

Breadth of commitment to the House should include:

1. Participation in the major sporting carnivals and Spirit Cup Performances
2. Active participation in the Annual House Dinner
3. Being a positive contributor to House Singing
4. Fulfilling the Cocurricular expectations – 2 activities per semester
5. Involvement in School Sport AND/OR Performance
6. Involvement in a recognised Community Service
7. A speech to an approved audience
8. Providing Service to the School

Full House Colours applicants must have demonstrated Leadership throughout the year.

Half House Colours applicants must have demonstrated Citizenship throughout the Year.

TRANSITION

Under the guidance of the Head of Transition Ms Amanda Lillburne and Assistant Head of Transition Mrs Erin Moss, the new year seven students start their Girtton induction spending a day in the Junior School helping to form the basis of the buddy/friend for the following year. On the day students met some of their teachers for next year and undertook icebreaker activities, listened to the "my journey" stories from some of our VCE students, shared a lunch and tested their physical abilities in a games tournament. On the second of the Induction days students are assessed through the Allwell Testing Programme with data assisting the Student Wellbeing Team in compiling classes, providing teachers with valuable information regarding student ability. The afternoon session provides the students with a further opportunity for forming of friendships. The students are formally welcomed to the House at the Parent Information Evening and are presented with their House Badge. The following year commences with a three-day Induction Programme for our Year Seven Cohort: the rationale being to allow all students to have the same transition into the secondary environment regardless of previous school. Students were given an Induction Programme Booklet which contained the programme, useful tips, timetables and photos of all their subject teachers, tutors and HOH. Meanwhile 135+ parents attended an information



session “Surviving a Girton Secondary Education as a Parent”. The parents were welcomed by our two School Captains and were given instructions re the Bring Your Own Device Policy and had the chance to take part in a question and answer session. Parents were given their own Induction Booklet to assist in easing the communication process. The next three days for students were taken up with a Year 7 specific programme- House Tutor Sessions, Swimming Trials, Electronic Treasure Hunt, Walk the Timetable, Ready to Learn, Intro to French and Japanese, Note Taking Techniques and Flip the Classroom.

Students who enter the School at other year levels are assisted in their transition through the allocation of a buddy who introduces them to all things Girton and ensures that they have a readily available answer to the questions that they have. The process is complemented by the House tutors.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMMES

At Girton Grammar School in 2017 our Emotional Intelligence programs have seen staff and students continue to develop their skills and abilities through a vast range of programs and opportunities. In the Junior School this year a series of workshops were held to educate parents about the four Anchors of the RULER Approach to Social and Emotional Intelligence. More than one hundred parents from both Junior and Senior School embraced the opportunity to develop their social and emotional intelligence skills in their everyday lives. This forms part of our student well-being approach providing parents an opportunity to upskill on the language and approaches being used in the classroom. The workshops aimed to provide parents with the knowledge and tools to bridge the gap between what their children are being taught in the classroom and providing continuity to their approaches at home. The workshops were well received by parents and the feedback revealed a genuine interest from parents wishing to develop their emotional intelligence skills alongside their children. A major project across the school this year was the rollout of the Whole School Charter to help create a culture and climate for emotional intelligence to prosper. This Charter is represented to the whole community at each term commencement assembly. In addition guest speakers from the Bendigo Community have spoken to students and staff centring on “Trust”, “Inclusion”, “Excellence”, “Respect” and “Confidence”. The RULER Approach to Emotional Intelligence is continuing to provide teachers, staff and students with learning experiences that enhance and build their emotional intelligence skills in a developmentally appropriate way. In 2018 Girton Grammar Junior School will continue to foster a genuine commitment to supporting the holistic development of our students, staff, families and community.

ANTI BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT POLICY

The School has a formal policy which is reintroduced to the students at the commencement of each term, reinforcing the Mission and Values statements that “Girton Grammar School is committed to providing everyone in our School with a working and learning environment free from unfair, unwarranted harassment. It is the School’s goal to provide an environment where the physical, emotional, moral and educational health and wellbeing of students are fostered above all else.” The various programmes offered have been important in providing students with the tools to help deal with situations should they arise. The Pastoral Care time used by the House Tutors and students has helped to create a relationship where situations can be openly discussed and quickly addressed. The secondary RULER team has provided material for sessions based on “Respect” and “Inclusion,” two of the pillars of the Whole School Charter. At all times the fabric of the policy is woven into the lesson. There continues to be a significant reduction in the traditional type of bullying reports. The challenge for all sectors of society is now the digital world and the way in which we interact in it. In order to address this the School used the resources of the Bendigo Proactive Policing Unit to provide expert instruction and allow for student inquiry. An online survey among all students is conducted each year. The purpose of that data collection is to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy, make adjustments if needed so that best practice is maintained and to assist the Student Wellbeing Team in dealing with specific cases. The figures for 2017 indicate that 85% of students feel that Girton is mostly a safe place and that 15% of students who reported incidents felt that the issue was dealt with satisfactorily. The challenge for us as a group was entirely predictable and that is the effect of an increased dependency on technology, the social networking maze that students engage and unfortunately the rise in Cyber Bullying that follows. The relationship between home and school is essential as our figures indicate that of those who report incidents 87% indicate that it occurs after hours.

PARENT EDUCATION

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg journeyed to Bendigo for the fourteenth straight year to present to sectors of our School Community. These presentations are worthy adjuncts to the curriculum whilst involving the parent body. This year the format was changed and Dr Carr Gregg presented to two separate audiences – Year 8’s with Drug and Alcohol awareness and the Year 9’s – Coping with School. Both sessions provided valuable information for students and parents to enable informed decision making and open communication at home. It is wonderful that such an eminent specialist maintains his commitment to the School.

In addition to this the partnership between the School and the Proactive Policing Department was further strengthened. This year the Year 7 and 8 students had Cyber Safety Workshops and Year 10 students – “Adolescents and the Law”. This Year the

Cyber presentations also involved the Year 5 and 6 students and a whole school community parent forum was also offered.

STAFF TRAINING

In addition to the continued work in Emotional Intelligence and the ALSUP programme, Student Wellbeing Staff have attended training on Youth Mental First Aid, Mental Health Issues in Adolescents, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Boys Education, Girls Education, Sexual Assault, Dealing With Tricky People and a number of presentations from the School Psychologist. It is important that staff have a number of effective strategies that can be implemented in their dealings with our students but to be aware of the various providers who offer specialist advice and guidance.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Mr John Pease works as a Consultant Psychologist with the School to provide different forms of assistance to students, parents and teachers in relation to enhancing the learning and emotional wellbeing of students at the School. Some of his work involves consultancy with teachers and parents, while some can involve more direct forms of assistance to individual students. Students who are regarded as being “at risk” may work with Mr Pease on a regular or occasional basis.

Psychological Counselling can be arranged by parent/doctor directly, or from the School. All School based referrals must be made through the relevant Head of House or the Head of Student Wellbeing.

HQ

The Senior School HQ facility continues to offer specific social and emotional support for referred students. HQ is managed by a full time Head of Case Management and a talented and dedicated support team. It is an open plan environment which facilitates Social and Emotional Learning, and self and social awareness. In addition, relationships and decision-making skills are fostered as pathways to positive self-efficacy. As with all secondary streams the RULER approach and anchors play a vital role in this process. Life skills programmes have been implemented, one of which has resulted in the development of a micro market garden unit. In this programme students are responsible for the planting of fruit and vegetables, maintaining and harvesting the crops and then arranging the marketing and sale of the produce. Other such programmes include The Cycle for Life bicycle maintenance programme, the Sporting Chance programme (running sporting activities for primary age students) and the Healthy Lunch programme. The School has also developed a partnership with Kangan TAFE whereby students from HQ gain access to alternative Academic and vocational programmes. Students who have accessed these courses have gained employment in the automotive industry, child care, veterinary services and aged care.





INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN 2017

Mrs Jane Reaburn
Head of ICT

This year the Information, Communication and Technology Department has continued their support of the School's ICT infrastructure so that staff and students can effectively and reliably use technology in the classroom. The main internet connection has been increased by 35% to cope with the extra demands and 150 teaching staff laptops have been replaced.

IT staff have continued to assist both teaching and non-teaching staff to implement and use ASTRA. ASTRA is our name for our all-in-one learning management system, portal and intranet for parents, students and staff. Parents now have access to much more information on ASTRA.

To streamline access to processes, all members of our school community now have a single login for Astra, Email, ClickView and other Network Services

Students enrolled in Year 7 in 2017 were asked to have either an iPad that they already owned or a new generation device that we recommended. 115 students took up the recommend device for 2017 which was a touch-screen and stylus enabled laptop. Senior School students are starting to replace their iPads with laptops which creates more learning opportunities with different software and a more flexible platform.

After reviewing this program we will offer three recommended devices for 2018. A basic, standard and a premium model will be offered to meet the different needs of students and families. Year 7 2018 students are asked to have a laptop for school. They

may use a laptop they already own or purchase one of the models we recommend. The recommended laptops will come with a school image which will ensure that they have easy access to the network and printing. The package includes insurance (including school organised repairs), software and a laptop bag. This offer is available to all students at Girton Grammar School. The IT committee has again organised the provision of flexible financial arrangements for parents to purchase a new device.

CodeCamp was held in the school holidays at the end of Term 2 and 3 to cater for the growing interest students have in computer coding.

The Technology Department has continued to reinforce the curriculum links between Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Whilst students study discreet subjects in the Technology Department, cross-curricular links are of critical importance to help students underpin skills and knowledge gained in core subjects. Our department focus this year has been to strengthen the programs offered and to introduce a number of new pieces of technological equipment into the curriculum.

The year saw the introduction of two new CNC machines to the department as well as a new Stereolithography (SLA) 3D printer. Older FDM 3D printers were also replaced with new machines that will provide better functionality for student use. As a result of this investment, students studying Technology subjects have been exposed to the latest technology and industry-standard equipment. This has had a flow-on effect to the students studying VCE subjects as it allows them to produce assessment tasks that would not have been possible only a few years ago.

Links with the Junior School have continued to be strengthened through the Junior School Woodworking Co-Curricular activity. Led by Ms Michelle Rey and assisted by Mr Smith and Mrs Burge, this activity runs at lunchtimes on Fridays for students in years 5 and 6 in the Technology Centre.

This year students were able to build a wooden pencil case as well as several other projects. It was very positive to see the interest and popularity of this activity grow over the course of the year.

In March Mr Smith accompanied seven students to the International Shell Eco Marathon Asia competition in Singapore to represent Girton and Australia. Normally a competition for University students it was a great privilege to be the only Australian School and the second Australian team to compete in this prominent event. Year 12 students Montague Velthius, Myles Blum and Tyrone Moloney-Paeglis and driver Benjamin Pignataro as well as and Year 11 students Karl Ferrari, Robert Wood and Connor McCaig were again assisted by Mr Robin Kirby to design, build and pilot an energy efficient vehicle around a street circuit. Whilst aerodynamics played a decisive role in the design of the vehicle, it is fuel efficiency that is the critical factor in this competition. The team passed the gruelling Technical Inspection and were able to complete 3 valid runs. At the end of the competition, the team managed to secure 9th place in the Internal Combustion Engine category; A fantastic result for Secondary Team. Further to this, the team also secured the prestigious Innovation Award for their design of an energy harvesting device that took excess heat and converted it into electrical energy to run the vehicle's fuel injection system. The team has grown for 2018 and is busily building a new vehicle to compete in the Electric Vehicle category in Singapore in 2018. Design and Technology week was held in early October and a number of special events ran at lunchtimes throughout the week. Of special note was a presentation by Old Girtonian Lieutenant Samuel Jackson-Maher to senior school students on his experiences in the Royal Australian Navy. Samuel studied VET Electrotechnology in 2008 and has gone on to further his studies at the Australian Defence Force Academy.





CURRICULUM, RESULTS AND TERTIARY ENTRANCE DATA – SENIOR SCHOOL

In summary:

- 107 students (100%) who applied for a tertiary offer received a first round offer.
- 79 students (74%) received their first preference.
- 93 students (87%) received their first or second preference.

Year of Offer	1st Preference	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Other	Total Offers
2017	79	14	9	1	3	1	107
2016	68	17	6	2	2	3	98
2015	75	16	11	3	3	3	111
2014	75	15	5	2	3	2	102
2013	77	25	7	2	1	6	118
2012	77	20	7	0	0	2	106
2011	84	7	7	3	2	1	106

Year of Offer	University of Melbourne	Monash	La Trobe - Bendigo	La Trobe - Other	Deakin	RMIT	Other
2017	24	25	22	3	11	12	10
2016	17	17	19	7	14	8	16
2015	28	11	23	6	11	12	17
2014	29	11	18	2	15	10	17
2013	40	9	32	2	13	7	15
2012	31	6	28	10	11	5	15
2011	31	10	16	6	21	6	13
2010	36	7	21	3	7	10	17

Courses Chosen/Offered

Some of the most popular fields of choice were Arts, Science, Business/Commerce and Health Sciences. Offers in Medicine, Bio-Medicine, Nursing, Paramedics, within the Health Science fields are also noted. Other course selections include International Studies, Information Technology, Fashion, Environments and Media Studies. Several students also received offers from interstate and overseas tertiary institutions. Headmaster, Mr Matthew Maruff, commented, "These results demonstrate a commitment to learning by students, teachers and parents. The relationships shared by these three groups have allowed our students to choose a preferred future."

See table below

	2017 Offers to the 2016 Cohort	2016 Offers to the 2015 Cohort	2015 Offers to the 2014 Cohort	2014 Offers to the 2013 Cohort
Medicine/ Dentistry/ Bio Medicine	8	4	2	7
Law	1	3	7	1
Health/ Nursing/ Physio/ Paramedical	18	16	4	7
Science/Agriculture/Pharmacy/Environment	2	10	23	18
Arts/Humanities/Social Science	22	10	21	14
Engineering/ Construction/ Aviation	9	2	8	11
IT/ Electronics/ Software etc	5	1	1	5
Business/ Commerce/ Accountancy	13	11	16	14
Media/ Management/ Journalism/ Marketing/ Tourism etc	6	6	3	8
Education	6	5	8	2
PE/ Sports/ Sports Management	1	8	0	4
Psychology/ Behavioural Science	6	2	2	3
Creative Arts	4	2	1	0
Architecture/ Design	4	2	3	4
Other	2	3	9	4





ARROWSMITH

This year is the second year of the pilot program, which has seen both consolidation of processes and change. This has been exciting, challenging & rewarding for our thirty- two enrollees who range in age from Grade 3 to Year 11.

The year began with two new staff members joining the five previously trained staff, namely Ms. Ingrid Douglass and Mrs. Annette Holmes. This staff profile allows flexibility to work within Arrowsmith, to teach academic subjects, to advocate for these students in academic classes and to be fully engaged in the life of the School. Two staff operate in Junior School and four in Senior School. This model also ensures consistency for staffing should illness or leave be required.

A second cognitive classroom was established in Junior School which has created a much more efficient environment for students in their respective classes and negated the need to travel across the dividing highway. It also enabled the Arrowsmith Program to more easily blend in with the timetables in each sector of the School.

An ever-present level of optimism has persisted across the Program this year due to increasing evidence of positive behavioural change in the students which has been reported by both parents and staff. These changes could be summarised as falling within the range between “satisfying” to “amazing”, and include such observations of growth in confidence with academic work, an increased

recognition of coping with the curriculum far better than they were in the past and in their general demeanour and social confidence.

The year began with all on-going students enthusiastically engaging with their cognitive programs and performing a second round of standardised testing which will assist evaluation of the degree of academic change measured over the life of the three year pilot program. New students were assessed and work-shopped in parallel with the on-going students that required a high degree of organisation by the Arrowsmith Staff. Following the mid -year holidays, an all staff meeting was addressed by a panel of three families of current Arrowsmith Parents and brave Students explaining the significance of the Arrowsmith program in their lives. This high impact presentation revealed the depths of struggle that the students had faced in the past and the devastating effect on their emotional lives. The panel also outlined their current version of their “better selves” as a result of their cognitive training within the Arrowsmith program over the previous 18 months. Subsequent comments from staff expressed amazement at their transformation. The life-changing effects of the Arrowsmith program was clearly evident for all to see.

The Arrowsmith model at Girton began in 2016 as being full time cognitive classes (160 minutes per day) and passion subjects. This year, the Arrowsmith model has evolved to become either full- time (160 minutes) or optional part- time (80 minutes), with mandatory English and Maths included in

the academic package. The remaining subjects are electives.

As part of the transition process, a familiarisation process for academic staff was initiated with Open Days in both rooms. All students have adjusted well to the change and all academic staff are to be congratulated for their professionalism and adaptability in assisting this process successfully.

A constant feature of the Arrowsmith Program for the students is tiredness due to the cognitive load built into the program and to the homework component for six nights per week. Despite this reality, all families have been increasingly mindful of the need for exercise and rest to assist their child. One cannot but be impressed with the level of engagement and diligence displayed by the students as they have persistently worked for improvements in their individual programs and for mastery in their respective tasks. This hard work has required good management and nurturing by our highly trained staff, and as Site Manager of the program, I commend the Arrowsmith Staff for their work as they have shown exceptional skills in managing a plethora of logistical and emotional issues as they have arisen. I also acknowledge the parent group who have supported the students and worked closely with our Staff and by attending regular Parent Forums.

We are all looking forward to reviewing the Arrowsmith program during next year and seeing the students transitioning towards greater independent work within academic classrooms.





SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Mr Les Evans

Senior Master (Teaching and Learning)

The NAPLAN Results for Years Seven and Nine 2017 allow comparison with students from the whole State. The headings, 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th refer to percentiles. The mean is simply the average score measured using the National Assessment Programme Scale

Year 7 Comparative Data from NAPLAN 2017 (measured using the National Assessment Programme Scale)

		Students	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	Mean
Reading	State	65,255	465	505	550	598	643	552
	School	123	495	527	571	615	673	574
Writing	State	65,214	445	482	524	572	613	524
	School	123	449	484	528	567	631	530
Spelling	State	65,436	456	505	553	598	637	549
	School	123	475	518	559	607	657	561
Grammar & Punctuation	State	65,436	451	496	546	597	647	548
	School	123	465	507	557	628	683	568
Numeracy	State	64,896	473	511	557	606	655	561
	School	119	494	540	579	630	659	584

Year 9 Comparative Data from NAPLAN 2017 (measured using the National Assessment Programme Scale)

		Students	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	Mean
Reading	State	61,190	497	541	588	631	667	584
	School	122	552	584	628	658	692	622
Writing	State	61,271	466	513	568	618	666	561
	School	117	517	561	602	655	684	599
Spelling	State	61,412	492	538	583	627	670	581
	School	119	526	562	615	651	689	609
Grammar & Punctuation	State	61,412	478	526	575	624	670	574
	School	119	508	558	607	654	709	607
Numeracy	State	60,772	520	551	591	636	683	597
	School	123	552	595	629	662	700	627

NAPLAN Percentage of Girton students meeting National Benchmarks

Year	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Reading	100	96	98	100
Writing	100	95	96	95
Spelling	96	95	98	97
Grammar and Punctuation	100	99	95	97
Numeracy	100	100	100	100





This has been an excellent year in the **Art Department** for our art students with twenty-seven framed artworks, and two large scale group artworks being displayed publicly; firstly at the opening of the Independent Schools Victoria Art Exhibition and then for several months at the offices of ISV. The practice of having regularly changed displays of student artwork in the Naunton Family Building has continued this year. This has enabled students to understand what their peers can achieve in Visual Art across all secondary class levels. The importance of being surrounded by exemplars of artwork has been reinforced by the continuance of the purchase of artists' prints for the permanent school collection of artwork. The most recent addition to the collection is a colourful relief print of the Tate Modern Gallery by the English printmaker Paul Catherall. This year a new course for Studio Arts at VCE level, with an emphasis on the studio process and gallery visits by students, has vindicated the change undertaken at Girton last year, where the ratio of folio classes to written and analytical classes was increased. As in past years the Art Faculty has focused on creating in Years Seven to Ten tasks that provide the cumulative technical and analytical knowledge that is the bedrock of VCE Studio Arts.

A welcome is extended to the school community to visit the Naunton Family Building during school hours to meet the Art Staff- Mr. Dean Ahearn in Room NO1 and Mrs. Carol Knowles in Room NO4, and to view the artwork of our many talented students.

Business Studies student numbers have

remained stable this year, with one hundred and sixty-one students enrolled in the four Business Studies VCE subjects (Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies and Business Management) and Year Ten Commerce. Mrs Amber Weston went on maternity leave in Term Two and returned to work for the Early Commencement Program in November 2017. As in previous years the Year Ten Business Management students studied and prepared a Business Plan (on their own fictitious business) and submitted these into the "CPA Plan your Own Business Competition". They shared their Plans with the wider school community in a Business Expo conducted at lunchtime. Accounting and Economics students participated in the Australian Stock Exchange School Share Market Game, with many students learning that gains are not guaranteed (in fact losses likely); a valuable life lesson. Legal Studies students have been exposed to the many facets of the Victorian Legal System by having the opportunity to participate in many excursions. The Loddon Prison excursion was very popular, where students had the chance to speak directly to inmates, learning first-hand the consequences of bad choices; particularly in relation to addiction (drugs, alcohol and gambling usually) and mental health issues. The Melbourne Supreme and County Court excursions also were enjoyed, making the theory learnt from textbooks very relevant. The students participated in a Juries Program (run by the Juries Commissioner's Office) where they were involved in the mock empanelment of a jury. The Bendigo Magistrates Court visits helped educate the students on the types of crimes that are committed in our local community. Some students volunteered to take

part in a Moot Court Competition conducted by Latrobe University. These students spent much time preparing to present a case, using legal arguments. They presented to Law Faculty staff and students at the University and were commended on their performances.

This year, the **Drama Department** staged three major productions with exceptional performances and professional technical assistance from all students involved; not to mention near sell-out seasons for all productions. As Director of the Senior School Production, Mr. Nicholas Pease worked with students throughout the course of Semester One with an adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The staging involved incredible LED screens that evoked the numerous settings, a live band played current songs with a 20's jazz vibe and the costumes ranged from Art Deco inspired fairies and lovers to name but a few. This production was staged at the historic Captial Theatre. The Girton Grammar School and local Bendigo communities were very supportive towards the production, with nearly all performances selling out. Special mention goes to Mr. Josh McGuffie, Dr. Michael Lichnovsky, Mrs. Jennifer Schatzle, Ms. Joanne Grech, Mrs. Jacinta Jackson, and Miss. Kaddison Kearnin for their fine work on coaching the actors in singing, dancing and acting.

Director of the Year Eight Production, Mrs. Joanne Grech, worked with the entire cohort on a Broadway classic; a production of 'Singin in the Rain Jnr'. Needless to say, the challenges of working with so many students and getting them to sing, dance





and act is no easy task. But Mrs. Grech, assisted by Mrs. Jackson helped the students rise to the occasion with bright dances, catchy show tunes and phenomenal acting from the lead cast. Again, these shows were sell outs in the school's Higgs Hall.

Overall, there has certainly been an abundance of positive connections made among both staff and students in the midst of all this work. These productions are key experiences for Drama, Dance and Theatre Studies students who learn key skills such as speaking and presenting to an audience, remaining focused and working patiently alongside their classmates to achieve a creative vision.

The **English Department** hosted PESA an international public speaking competition run by the VCAA. On Wednesday 24th May, Girton hosted a Regional Final of this competition. A total of 10 students from five schools competed, including Alexander Nielsen (12 Millward) and Alexander O'Shea (12 Aherne). Alexander Nielsen spoke insightfully on the power of space exploration and Alexander O'Shea spoke about life's true test, a lesson in being stressed. Cate Kennedy, the award-winning author of novels, poetry, short fiction, and travel memoir, returned to Girton Grammar School as a guest speaker in Term Three, addressing the Year 12 Literature students, sharing with them her knowledge, skill and passion for her craft of writing short stories. She expertly guided these students in their understanding of her work, and the students certainly gained inspiration and insight from her presentation. The Eagle's Nest Theatre Company presented a workshop to Year 11 Literature students on Hamlet. They also performed Macbeth and conducted a workshop on this text for Year 11 English students. Mrs Winsome Wastell organised and facilitated the Inter-House Public Speaking Competition. English Department Staff adjudicated this competition. Mr Peter Thomas was facilitator of the Tournament of Minds Language and Literature Team. They won both the regional competition and then the state championship. Mrs Caryn Clark and a sub-committee of senior students in Lucy Spencely (11 Frew), Stephanie Brunner (11 Jones), Miranda Farr (11 Jenkin) and Adele McGaffin (11 Jones) facilitated and organised the Creative Writing Competition for the 2018 Girtonian. Students also competed at this year's ICCES Debating under the guidance of Co-MiC Mrs Kathryn Barton and Dr Andrew Iltter, coming third place overall. Students also competed in the Debaters' Association of Victoria (DAV) Schools' Competitions. Our VCE Grade (Year 11) progressed to the DAV State Playoffs, and one VCE Grade team progressed to the State Quarter-finals. Alexander Nielsen (12 Millward) won the DAV Swannie Award for the best speaker for the Bendigo region in the VCE Grade. Three Girton teams also competed in the UN Evatt Competition, two of which progressed to State Final at Parliament House, Melbourne. 66 Year 7 and 15 Year 8 students completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Bendigo Writers Festival in association with Rotary Club of Bendigo published

The Vox Bendigo Book – Young Writers Anthology. From over 180 submissions of high quality entries, three Girton students were published: Rachael Hamilton (7 Jenkin), Sanjana Jijo (8 Frew) and Lasith Kulasekara (8 Jones).

The year started with a bang for the **French Department** as we welcomed our sister school Ste Ursule who came with 40 students and 4 staff members in mid-February. It is fair to say that this visit was very successful as the French pupils truly enjoyed their experience with their respective families and absolutely loved their time at school. It was great to see the Ste Ursule staff and students so included in our community and the French participation during our Inter-House Swimming competition. The last relay was commented both in French and in English which delighted everyone at the Aquatic Centre. A huge thank you goes to Mme Biard who was in charge of the visit for the first time and her organisational skills as well as her friendly manner contributed to the success of the exchange.

The School has welcomed various French students this year, coming from different parts of France and exchange organisations. Our students appreciate their French peers' company and also enjoy the opportunity to practise their French skills in and outside the classroom.

A group of ten brave Year 9 and 10 students left in mid-September to spend the whole of Term Four at Ste Ursule in Vendee. It is fantastic to see that so many students are taking this opportunity. They are enjoying being part of different French families and attending classes in Lucon for a few weeks. The

friendships that are made are enduring as many of our families have now been hosting siblings of the same French families. All students planning to study French in VCE years are encouraged to consider this unique and authentic opportunity.

Finally it is with sadness that we must say au-revoir to our vibrant and energetic Mme Hamilton. The students have really enjoyed her lively and entertaining approach to French teaching in the last few years. She will certainly be missed in the French department and we wish her all the best for her retirement which she will enjoy with her "wee" grandchildren.

One of the key aims of the **Humanities Department** (Geography, History, Politics, Classical Studies, Sociology, Philosophy, Religious Education and Personal Development) is to ensure that students are provided every opportunity to develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. We strive to provide a curriculum that is contemporary, relevant and of the highest standard, equipping each student with the knowledge that will provide the basis for success, both in their school studies and beyond. This entails developing curriculum that is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of students, changing external curricula, changing technology and techniques, and keeping teachers and students fresh and engaged. To meet this challenge, the Humanities Department embarked on the first year of a two-year major review and re-structuring of subjects, content taught, assessment and reporting with the aim of ensuring the teachers and students are engaged and effective in the delivery of curriculum.





The Humanities Department has also been actively involved in improving feedback to student and developing resources and utilising Astra.

2017 once again saw the Humanities Department actively involved in organising excursions and incursions to enrich the teaching of our subjects and enable students to be exposed to a diverse range of experiences outside of the normal classroom setting. Some of the excursions have included Year 8 Geography undertaking a Flood Management fieldtrip, Year 9-11 History students attending the Courage to Care exhibition, Year 10-12 Philosophy students visiting Melbourne University, Year 9 REPD students attending the Homelessness and Street Art excursion in Melbourne, Year 12 Geography students visiting the Fosterville Mine and Melbourne Zoo and Year 11 Sociology students visiting the Law Courts. Additionally, the Humanities Department once again hosted the VCE History Roadshow, a volunteer presenter from Sea Shepherd for Year 9 Geography and Year 11 Sociology, and Vietnam Veteran speakers for Year 11 History. The Department also organised two teams of politics students for the annual MUNA Conference -Lucy Spencely (11F) and Adele McGaffin (11J) - and the Constitutional Convention (Abbey Saxon (10F), Lucy Spencely (11F) and Sam Hilson (11F)).

The **Japanese Department** started 2017 with our annual Kanji Camp, where 21 students learnt the 250 VCE prescribed Kanji over the one weekend in February. We welcomed a group of 11 female students from Gojo Senior High School, our sister school in Japan, in March and enjoyed showing them our school and home life. All Junior School students particularly enjoyed a special assembly held for our Gojo visitors. Year 1 students performed a greetings song and this performance was reciprocated by Gojo students, who performed an upbeat dance routine to Japanese music. Harrison Waller (11Jo) spent two

weeks at Gojo during the September and October holidays and gained valuable experiences. Lily Begg (11Jo), Fabian Denk-Rae(11Jo), Olivia Mattiske (11A) and Toby Scott (10Je) are looking forward to spending two weeks in Gojo next January. We look forward to another visit from Gojo in March 2018.

At the end of Term 3, Ms Yumi Onodera resigned to go back to Japan permanently. She had worked at Girton for the last 10 years and taught in both Junior and Senior Schools. We thank her for all of her contributions to our students and to the school. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours in Japan. Ms Helen Brown joined us at the start of Term 4 to replace Ms Onodera. We are delighted that she has joined the Japanese Department and will no doubt make a wonderful contribution to the teaching of Japanese at Girton Grammar.

The **Junior School Library** is very busy with 21 hour long library classes scheduled every week. The Senior School Library, along with timetabled classes, is also home to the 25 students who study subjects with Distance Education and the Victorian School of Languages.

Both Libraries are well patronised by students out of class time. The Senior library hosts several co curricular activities during lunchtimes and is a hive of activity after school through to closing time at 6pm. Book Week in the Junior School saw students dress up as their favourite book character with activities such as book mark making and book character Bingo being very popular during lunchtime. Two very successful Book Fairs were held again in the Junior Library this year generating \$4,500 in commission from a fantastic sales effort (\$14,900). This enables the library to maintain its excellent collection of fiction and non-fiction for the young readers. Thank you very much to the parents and grandparents who have supported the Book Fairs this year.

Ebooks has been added to the resources already provided by World Book Encyclopedia which, along with many other resource links, can be found on the Junior and Senior Library pages of ASTRA.

The **Learning Resource Centre** has continued to introduce new assessments to identify students who require intervention. Two staff members have received the extensive training required to be able to administer and analyse this comprehensive range of tests. The other staff members in the Learning Resource Centre are currently involved in the training required. These assessments are providing some excellent insight into the learning strengths and challenges of many students.

The Learning Resource Centre staff have been using the Sutherland Phonological Awareness Test, administered to Year One students and the SEAPART (School Entry Alphabetic and Phonological Awareness Readiness Test) assessment for all Preparatory students. This screening process provides detailed information to the class teacher as well as highlights areas where students may require some early intervention.

There have been individual assessments completed on new students or students of concern; including the York Assessment for Reading Comprehension (YARC), KBIT-2 (IQ screener assessment), CELF 4 Language Screener assessment, CTOPP2 (phonological processing assessment) in Years Two to Twelve and the MYAT (Middle Years Ability Test) for middle years. The staff in the Learning Resource Centre have used the AGAT (ACER General Ability Test) assessment to determine students general reasoning. This has been used to determine students requiring extension as well as those requiring support.

Junior School HQ has been able to run a full time program with the addition of the Case Manager role. HQ have been offering sensory, social and emotional programs for students in Preparatory to Year Six. They also offer movement breaks from the classroom.

The Learning Resource Centre offered Year Seven and Eight Examination Workshops during Examination week. These workshops covered study techniques, mind mapping and an overview of how we learn. These will be held each semester during Examination week.

A focus for this year with all Learning Resource Centre staff has been the designing and implementing of an Individual Learning Plan for students with additional needs in Preparatory to Year Twelve. The Program Support Group meetings occur three times a year. These meetings have allowed senior students to become more independent with their studies and to have a greater understanding of themselves as a learner.

The Junior School Learning Resource Centre staff have worked closely with class teachers, working with students in the classroom setting, withdrawing





students in small groups and testing students individually providing feedback to the class teacher and parents. The Senior School Learning Resource Centre staff have been running Literacy and Numeracy classes from Year Seven to Year Nine. They have also been involved in testing students individually and providing feedback to parents, students and class teachers.

The **Mathematics Department**

continued the "Flip the Classroom" model which is now used in Years Seven, Eight and Nine and was extended include Semester One of Year Ten.

Development and understanding of key skills and retention of these skills through regular practice remains an important facet of the Mathematics education at Girton Grammar School. Moreover developing an understanding of Mathematical concepts is the top priority and we continue to strive to instil this into students. Our aim is to provide a class room environment where students are challenged to explore new ideas, are challenged to discover mathematical properties, are challenged to understand what it means to think and work mathematically and are comfortable reflecting on and articulating their understanding of mathematical concepts. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, to struggle with problems so as to develop understanding and learn more deeply about a topic.

This curriculum continues to be developed in line with the Australian Curriculum standards for Mathematics and the cornerstone of each lesson remains a clear learning intention that gives the students and teachers purpose and direction. In 2018 we will continue to strive to develop a culture where Mathematics is engaging, vibrant, interesting and above all challenging for students.

The Mathematics Department continues to run after school tutorials every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Many students take advantage of these opportunity to gain additional assistance with Mathematics and plenty of spaces are available for other students to participate.

The Year Eight Extension Mathematics program

and Year Nine Extension Mathematics programs have been successfully run this year. The Year Seven Extension Mathematics program was added in Semester Two. As part of this program students entered both the Australian Mathematics Challenge and Australian Mathematics Competition run by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The aim of the Extension Mathematics program is to further challenge students and we will continue to enrich and enhance this program over the coming years. The Extension Mathematics in Years Eight and Nine provides a pathway to the Generalisation Logic and Proof elective subject in Year Ten.

This year Girton grammar School entered teams of students in the Maths Association of Victoria (MAV) Maths Games Days. Each year level was represented by two teams of four students at events across Melbourne. The Maths Games Day is an opportunity for students to develop their mathematical talents and thinking skills in a setting where maths is regarded as fun and worthwhile with like-minded students from a diverse range of schools. It is an ideal way for students to participate in mathematical activities without the usual class room pressures and is a very effective vehicle for getting young people excited about Mathematics, problem solving and mathematical games.

Congratulations to all students who represented Girton at the Maths Games Days in 2017.

Particular congratulations is due to Chaelim Ko (Year 10 Aherne) who was selected to attend the girls in STEM program "Curious Minds" The program consisted of two residential camps at the University of New South Wales in Sydney in December and July and a mentoring program. The theme for the 2017 program was Renewable Technologies.

The **Music Department** has continued its consistent growth in 2017. The Year Seven classes are still enjoying making musical instruments and presenting them in performance with Ms. Jennifer Schatzle (Acting Assistant Head of Frew House) and Mr. Josh McGuffie. The Head of Music, Mr. S. Vine and the Head of Riley House, Mr. Martin continue exploring the History of Music while exploring rap

and Rock 'n Roll in Year Eight Music. The Year Nine Music Performance class continues to thrive with Mr. Martin and Mrs. Vine (MiC Brass) has continued to polish the Year 10 (VCE Unit 1 & 2) Music classroom and deepen the links into VCE Music Styles and Composition and Music Performance. The Year Nine and ten Music Classes presented a joint recital evening with remarkable success to complete their performance year. VCE Music Style and Composition (Units 3 & 4) continues its' popularity for students in Year Eleven. The VCE Style and Composition class has continued to excel throughout the year and demonstrated the quality of their composition skill in concert in Young Composers Concert. VCE Music Performance (Mr. S. Vine, Head of Music) and VCE Music Investigation (Dr. M. Lichnovsky, MiC Woodwind) continue as popular choices for our advance VCE musicians. The students have all applied themselves to their studies with commitment and skill, which has made for another excellent year of study and results that please everyone. The Music Department continues to produce numerous high-quality performances and significant collaborative events with Drama to deliver the wonderfully successful Midsummer Night's Dream. With continued development in performance standard within the classroom music programs events such as Musician of the Year and the VCE Music recital evening showcase the progressive growth in performance standard with the school.

It has been an exciting and dynamic year for the **Physical Education Department.**

The Girton Grammar Sports Excellence Program expanded to include the Grades 5 and 6. Girton athletes were provided a new curriculum, which set to develop fundamental body and movement awareness levels. This program created a physical platform for our athletes and will be a great lead into future elite sporting programs ran by the school. By providing our athletes these foundation levels of strength, flexibility and body awareness, not only are we minimising the risk of injury for our athletes, but also gradually and safely learning correct strength training techniques which will ultimately lead to increased athletic success. We are very excited to announce that this new initiative will continue to grow in 2018, as it will open up to include Year 7's as well as the junior school students.

Our Elite Year 9 and 10 students have been very fortunate, continuing to work alongside Latrobe University Bendigo and growing upon our existing relationship. Girton staff continue to work collaboratively with Latrobe Exercise Physiology students in their new laboratory facilities, conducting Exercise Physiology Laboratories, undertaking blood lactate, anaerobic capacity and VO2 Max tests. We look forward to continuing and building upon our new relationship with the University.

Students in Years Seven to Ten have enjoyed another vibrant, exciting and vast program, which





has been enjoyed by all. A number of new fun and exciting activities have been added into the curriculum.

Junior School students have also completed a busy year as they continue to be included and involved in many sporting arenas. Swimming, athletics and cross country are our main sporting carnivals with different interests being stimulated in the Year Three to Six area by a variety of clinics; tennis, dance, golf, orienteering and lacrosse to name a few. The Perceptual Motor Program(PMP) which is delivered to the Preparatory, Year One and Year Two classes, continues to develop the sequential skills of the students. It has been integrated in our curriculum for a number of years now, with students really enjoying their experiences.

Outdoor and Environmental Studies offers the opportunity for students to move out of the classroom, working collaboratively with local community groups to establish connections in helping creating sustainable environments. Students enjoyed experiences such as snow skiing, snowboarding, snorkelling, paddle boarding, surfing, rock climbing/ abseiling, hiking, sea kayaking, bike riding, camping and tree planting. The students carried out these activities in some of the most picturesque and challenging surroundings that Australia has to offer, including Wilsons Promontory National Park, Little Desert, Mount Arapiles, Mount Sterling, Mount Buller, Port Phillip Bay, Phillip Island, Torquay and Lorne.

The **Science Department** has continued to offer a range of events and competitions in 2017 to engage students in Science and our students celebrated many successes this year.

Year Ten, Eleven and Twelve students sat 17 Science Olympiad Examinations to compete for entry in the Science Olympiad Summer Schools. The following

students achieved a High Distinction Award placing them in the top 10% of Australian Students: Alexander O'Shea 12A (Earth & Environmental Science and Biology), Sankalpa Gamage 11Je (Biology), Joe Flexmore 11 (Biology), Prudence Whiteley 11R (Biology). The following students were awarded a distinction Award placing them in the next 20% of Australian Students: Josephine Gullan 11 (Biology), Rivani Porwal 11 (Biology), Alexander O'Shea 12 (Chemistry), Sankalpa Gamage (Chemistry), Jarrod Slot 11 (Chemistry). Girton students also achieved 3 Credit Awards and 3 Participation Awards.

In August five Year Ten students Abbey Saxon (10 Frew), Callum Hercus (10 Aherne), Amelia Campagnaro (10 Frew), Matilda Dimsey (10 Jones) and Angela Mekel (10 Frew) competed in the 2017 High School Cancer Challenge at the Gene Technology Access Centre. The competition is organised by young scientists and doctors to bridge the gap between school science and science careers. The students participated in the competition, explored the world-class research facilities in Melbourne, interacted with the researchers in their laboratories and found out more information about research pathways. They also explored the effect of cancer on society. This day was very aspirational and the students were excellent ambassadors for the School. Abbey Saxon (10 Frew) placed 3rd in the competition. The organisers were very impressed with all students.

Declan Rochford Y12 attended the National Youth Science Forum in January. From this event he was one of 30 students selected for the London International Youth Science Forum and 1 of 4 for The Michigan Maths and Science Scholars program.

In 2016 Evelyn Crawford, Millicent a'Beckett and Amelia Campagnaro were selected from 400 applicants across Victoria to take part

in the pilot four-year program "Girlpower in STEM", a University of Melbourne program designed to attract and sustain female Secondary school students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths, Medicine) subjects. This year two students took up the offer of work experience in Biology and Chemistry as part of this program.

The Science department supported twelve Year Ten Girton students who participated in The Amazing Spaghetti Machine Contest organised by the Melbourne School of Engineering as part of the Science & Engineering Co-curricular activity. This year the students were challenged to make a complicated machine to crush an aluminium drink can. Great team work during many months of building and on the judging day resulted in them winning overall first place, the Engineering Excellence Award and the People's Choice Award.

Three Year Eleven teams competed in the 2017 RACI Victorian Branch Titration Competition. The team comprising Paris Bickley Year 11 A, Tully Scanlon Year 11 Je and Samuel Hilson Year 11 F achieved 6th place out of 354 teams. They went on to compete in the National Titration Competition, achieving Silver Badges.

Girton Grammar School competed in the 2017 Regional Science & Engineering Challenge. 32 Year Nine and Ten students represented the school. They worked well during the day, displaying excellent team work as they endeavoured to solve engineering problems with limited materials.

The Science and Engineering Trip to the United States of America occurred in September 2017. 32 Girton students participated in the 3 week trip visiting and participating in many different Science activities including Space Camp, Sea Camp, lunch with an astronaut at Kennedy Space Center, theme parks, movie studios, indoor skydiving, La Brae Tar Pits, Science Museums and heard about the Mars 2020 rover at the Jet Propulsion Lab. They patted a Giant Tortoise and an armadillo, saw a Minke whale in San Diego and found alligators of all sizes in the Florida everglades. They were wonderful ambassadors for their School and their Country.

The Science Department celebrated National Science Week this year with a performance of the Big Bang Theory Song at Senior School Assembly.

The **Technology Department** has continued to reinforce the curriculum links between Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Whilst students study discreet subjects in the Technology Department, cross-curricular links are of critical importance to help students underpin skills and knowledge gained in core subjects. Our department focus this year has been to strengthen the programs offered and to introduce a number of new pieces of technological equipment into the curriculum.

The year saw the introduction of two new CNC machines to the department as well as a new Stereolithography (SLA) 3D printer. Older FDM 3D printers were also replaced with new machines





that will provide better functionality for student use. As a result of this investment, students studying Technology subjects have been exposed to the latest technology and industry-standard equipment. This has had a flow-on effect to the students studying VCE subjects as it allows them to produce assessment tasks that would not have been possible only a few years ago.

Links with the Junior School have continued to be strengthened through the Junior School Woodworking Co-Curricular activity. Led by Ms MiChelle Rey and assisted by Mr Smith and Mrs Burge, this activity runs at lunchtimes on Fridays for students in years 5 and 6 in the Technology Centre. This year students were able to build a wooden pencil case as well as several other projects. It was very positive to see the interest and popularity of this activity grow over the course of the year.

In March Mr Smith accompanied seven students to the International Shell Eco Marathon Asia competition in Singapore to represent Girton and Australia. Normally a competition for University students it was a great privilege to be the only Australian School and the second Australian team to compete in this prominent event. Year 12 students Montague Velthuis, Myles Blum and Tyrone Moloney-Paeglis and driver Benjamin Pignataro as well as Year 11 students Karl Ferrari, Robert Wood and Connor McCaig were again assisted by Mr Robin Kirby to design, build and pilot an energy efficient vehicle around a street circuit. Whilst aerodynamics played a decisive role in the design of the vehicle, it is fuel efficiency that is the critical factor in this competition. The team passed the gruelling Technical Inspection and were able to complete 3 valid runs. At the end of the competition, the team managed to secure 9th place in the internal Combustion Engine category. A fantastic result for Secondary Team. Further to this, the team also secured the prestigious Innovation Award for their design of an energy harvesting device that took excess heat and converted it into electrical energy to run the vehicle's fuel injection system. The team has grown for 2018 and is busily building a new vehicle to compete in the Electric Vehicle category in Singapore in 2018. Design and Technology week was held in early October and a number of special events ran at lunchtimes throughout the week. Of special note was a presentation by Old Girtonian Lieutenant Samuel Jackson-Maher to senior school students on his experiences in the Royal Australian Navy. Samuel studied VET Electrotechnology in 2008 and has gone on to further his studies at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

In our capacity as a Registered Training Organisation the **VET Department** has continued to offer two VCE/VET subjects that provide students with the opportunity to complete a full Certificate III or partial completion of a Certificate III course as part of their studies. The practical nature of these Certificate course studies reinforces and adds to the application and knowledge of the academic side of each subject and helps to develop work place skills

and to provide links to workplace expectations and industry standards.

In addition, this year we have two students who are incorporating Vocational Education programs as part of their academic studies. We have one student undertaking a School-based Traineeship Certificate III in Wine Industry Operations and one student undertaking a School-based Apprenticeship in Electrotechnology – Electrician.

- VCE VET Information, Digital Media & Technology (IDMT) incorporating ICT30115 Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology (partial completion)

A highlight of the year for the Unit Three and Four students was their participation in the City of Greater Bendigo Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival short film festival. As a team the class devised a humorous promotional short, "La Carnivale" to promote the Festival. The work was awarded a prize was used to launch the festival opening at Star Cinema, Bendigo.

- VCE VET Music Industry incorporating CUA30915 Certificate III Music Industry

Students taking this course of study gain experience and practical skills recording, mixing and editing sound sources. In particular, they learn event staging support and recording as well as sound reinforcement and setting up and disassembling audio equipment.

These students have many opportunities to practice and develop their skills to industry standards as they lead the Theatre Technician students in planning and providing technical services to all major Girton

Grammar School events throughout the year.

GIRTON CO-CURRICULUM

Mr. Dan Slater
Head of Co-Curriculum

The co-curriculum programme at Girton Grammar provides a diverse range of exciting activities designed to provide our students with avenues to learn new skills, create life-long friendships and opportunities to strive for excellence.

Through involvement in the co-curriculum programme our students benefit from the important connections they make outside of the classroom. This enables them to feel comfortable amongst their peers and teachers, confident in their abilities and able to face the many challenges that life presents. The skills gained in the co-curriculum and the numerous opportunities to take on leadership roles assist each student in their personal development and ensures they become a valued member of the wider community.

Many of our parents provide essential assistance to our co-curriculum program. This support is very much appreciated and the benefits you provide in your roles as coach, manager or as a member of a Friends of Girton organising committee is critical to the success of our co-curriculum programme.

The following is a summary of each of our co-curriculum activities.





A SPORTING CHANCE PROGRAM

(MIC: MR JOHN DOHERTY)

A Sporting Chance Program is a specialised program aimed specifically at young individuals aged 5-15 who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It has been in operation at Girton Grammar School for the past five years and is open to the School's students and to young people from the broader Bendigo community. The aim of our program is for Girton Grammar senior students to act as coaches/mentors to the young participants who all have an ASD. Through excellent role modelling, the coaches not only enable their athlete to learn new sporting skills but also help them to develop appropriate social behaviours as well as improving their social confidence and communication skills.

An example of how beneficial and powerful the program is can be understood through the words of Natalie Beale, the mother of Louis, who joined the program as one of our founding members in 2013. After four years participating in our program, Louis is a different person with Natalie indicating the program had an incredible impact on him.

"For six months, Louis hid behind a pole during the weekly sport sessions, such as his fear of people, noise and sporting equipment. The Girton student coaches had an incredible ability to build a rapport with Louis and encouraged and supported him every week until eventually, he became actively involved. The Girton coaches celebrated every achievement with Louis and built up his confidence and in the end, he was the first one to arrive each week, wanting to catch up with his friends and to kick more goals," she said.

Louis's story is a fine example of how the young people from within our Girton Grammar community help vulnerable young people from the greater community live a much fuller life and enable them to be better integrated in our community.

AEROBIC GYMNASTICS

(MIC: MRS BELINDA VERNON)

It has been a successful year for the Girton Aerobic Gymnastics Team. We started the year with forty junior school students and several senior school students. The students trained for an hour every Thursday after school. In June, some of our students elected to travel to MSAC at Albert Park to compete at Aerochallenge. The Girton students returned to Bendigo with all of our students placing in the top ten, as well as five teams/individuals placing in the top three.

All of our teams travelled to Melbourne in August to compete at the State Aeroschool Championships. We had seventeen junior students and three senior school students compete over two days. Thirteen of our students qualified for the Aeroschool National Championships with three teams awarded a place in the top three and seven teams placing in the top ten in their section. In September, we returned to MSAC for the Spring Aerochallenge. The Girton students ended the competition with three first places, two second places, three third places as well as three other top ten finishes.

In September, the students who qualified at the State Aeroschool Championships competed at the National Aeroschool Championships against schools from all over Australia. Our senior school pair

were gold medallists in the intermediate level four section. The level three mini teams won a silver and bronze medal and the junior level three trio were placed seventh. Finally, the junior Aerodance team placed a close fourth, just missing the bronze medal.

The final event for the year is the parent display, allowing the students a chance to display their new skills and routines for family and friends.

ART FOR LATENT PICASSOS

(MIC: MRS CAROL KNOWLES)

Once again, this art activity has had a constant group of 10 students drawn from year's eight to twelve. The mix of students from these levels has proved to be a fortuitous one with all students communicating freely and positively with one another via their interest in image making. This year is the last year of participation for Jake Fletcher (12jo). Jake, the longest serving member of the group has regularly attended this activity, on a Tuesday afternoon, since he first came to Girton Grammar School. All the participants in this activity have been interested in learning new skills, and to this end a range of materials have been used, and a number of processes has been taught. Included have been; water-colour techniques, cut paper collages, digital process compositions, still life compositions, drawing out of doors, charcoal drawing, creating moulded dishes from laminated tissue paper and shortcut ways to create new compositions and developmental images.

ATHLETICS & CROSS COUNTRY

(MIC: MR DAN SLATER SS & MRS CARMEL HAMILTON JS)

GIRTON SENIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Girton athletics team were involved in five levels of competition throughout 2017.

1. Girton Athletics Carnival - Bendigo athletics track
2. Sandhurst Division of School Sport Victoria (SSV) - Bendigo athletics track
3. Loddon Mallee Regional SSV - Bendigo athletics track
4. Independent Country Co-Educational School (ICCES) - Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne
5. State Finals of SSV - Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne

The 2017 Girton Athletics Carnival was conducted at the Flora Hill Athletics Track on Thursday 23rd March. The trials were conducted in the morning followed by the Spirit Cup, track finals and relays in the afternoon.

The Spirit Cup was a close battle, and it was Jones who were announced the winner for a truly spectacular performance.

The Athletics Shield for overall Champion House





was won by Frew. The dominance of Frew in athletics has now spanned fourteen consecutive years.

Age Champions:

- 13 Years: Girls: Abbey Conquer (7Je)
Boys: Asher Butcher (7Je)
- 14 Years: Girls: Serryn Eenjes (8Jo)
Boys: Camblar kays (8F)
- 15 Years: Girls: Zahli Drummond (9Je)
Boys: Lachlan Nemet (9R)
- 16 Years: Girls: Matilda Moore (10R)
Boys: Lachlan Archibald (10R) & Kayle Thompson (11R)
- 17 Years: Girls: Eva Harrington (11F)
Boys: Ishira Dayananda (12M)
- Open: Girls: Rani Madden (12F)
Boys: Declan Rochford (12F)

SANDHURST DIVISION OF SSV

Girton placed 3rd behind Catholic College and Bendigo South East College.

Top 3 Individuals:

- 13 Girls: 2nd – Abbey Conquer (7Je)
- 14 Girls: 2nd – Serryn Eenjes (8Jo)
- 17 Girls: 2nd – Eva Harrington (11F)
- 17 Boys: 2nd – Henry Coventry-Brownrigg (11A)
- Open Boys: 1st - Declan Rochford (12F)
- Open Girls: 1st - Rani Madden (12R)

ICCES ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Girton was unplaced overall. The winning school was Gippsland Grammar, with Ballarat Grammar in second place.

The ICCES competition is based on Year levels and not Age groups

Top 3 Individuals:

- Year 7 Girls: 2nd – Abbey Conquer (7Je)
- Year 8 Girls: 1st – Serryn Eenjes (8Jo)
- Open Boys: 1st – Declan Rochford (12F)

LODDON MALLEE REGIONALS

The regional finals were held in Bendigo on Thursday 12th October.

Students who achieved 1st Place:

- Serryn Eenjes (8Jo) – 14 Girls Discus
- Zahli Drummond (9Je) – 15 Girls 800m
- Matilda Moore (10R) – 16 girls 1500m
- Eva Harrington (11F) – 17 Girls 100m, 200m, 400m
- Declan Rochford (12F) – Open Boys Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Open Boys Relay

The students who gained a first place at the Regional Athletics Carnival in individual or relay events qualified to compete at the State Athletics Championships in Melbourne on Monday 23rd October.

STATE FINALS OF SSV

Students to finish in the Top 5 at State level:

- Matilda Moore (10R): 3rd - Open Girls Steeplechase
- Serryn Eenjes ((8Jo): 4th - 14 Girls Discus

GIRTON ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 2017

- Junior: (Years 7 – 9) – Serryn Eenjes (8Jo)
- Senior: (Years 10 – 12) - Declan Rochford (12F)

JUNIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS (MRS CARMEL HAMILTON)

The 2017 Girton Junior School Athletic Carnival was conducted at the Flora Hill Athletics track on

Tuesday April 26th. All students in Preparatory through to Year Six took part in the rotational carnival. Riley House took out the Carnival Cup, with Millward House enjoying the Spirit Cup win.

Junior School HOUSE ATHLETIC RESULTS:

1st:	Riley	1859 points
2nd:	Jones	1782
3rd:	Jenkin	1746
4th:	Aherne	1641
5th:	Frew	1621
6th:	Millward: 1	556

AGE CHAMPIONS

- 8/9 Boys: Axel Drummond (3Je)
- 8/9 Girls: Claire Jones (3A)





- 10 Boys: Oliver Schelosky (4R)
- 10 Girls: Zara Paul (4R)
- 11 Boys: Lincoln McKern (5R)
- 11 Girls: Emily Anderson (6R)
- 12 Boys: Patrick Byrne (6R)
- 12 Girls: Olivia Green (6A)

SHAMROCK DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Sixty-eight students competed at the Shamrock District Athletics held at the Flora Hill track on Friday May 6th. Twenty-two students then won through to the Goldfields-Sandhurst Division Athletics carnival which was held in Bendigo on Monday September 18th.

2017 Sandhurst/Goldfields Primary School Track and Field Championships:

- Matilda O'Sullivan (3Jo) - Long Jump
- Axel Drummond (3Je) - 200m and 1500m
- Fraser Allen (3Fr) - Long Jump
- Mia Nichol (4Ah) - 100m and 200m
- Oliver Schelosky (4Jo) - 800m
- Oliver Walker (4Jo) - Discus and Shot Put
- Will Bowles (5R) - Discus
- Chloe Peter (5Je) - Long Jump and Relay
- Emily Anderson (6Ri) - Hurdles (1st), Triple Jump (1st) and Relay
- Ruby Conti (5Mi) - 100m and Relay
- Hunter Boswell (5JE) - Shot Put (2nd)
- Hannah Green (6Ah) - Long Jump (2nd), 800m and Relay
- Olivia Boef (6Ah) - Shot Put
- Rose Kennett (6Ah) - Triple Jump (2nd) and Relay

- Patrick Byrne (6Jo) - Triple Jump and 1500m (4th)
- Olivia Green (6Ah) - Discus, 200m and Relay
- Isabel St Clair (6Fr) - Triple Jump
- Willow Barnett (6Je) - 200m, 800m and Relay
- Mia McGovern (6Ri) - 100m, 200m and Relay
- Mac Hilson (6Fr) - High Jump
- Elise Richards (6Je) - Shot Put (3rd) and Discus
- Hamish Walker (6Jo) - Discus
- 12 Girls Relay team - Olivia Green, Mia McGovern, Hannah Green and Rose Kennett (5th)
- 11 Girls Relay team - Emily Anderson, Willow Barnett, Chloe Peter and Ruby Conti (5th)

Three students went on to compete in the Loddon Mallee Regional Athletics held at the Flora Hill Athletics Track on Monday October 16th, 2017.

1. Emily Anderson 11 Year in Hurdles (1st) and Triple Jump (2nd)
2. Rose Kennett 12/13 Year in Triple Jump (3rd)
3. Hunter Boswell 11 Year in Shot Put (7th)

CROSS COUNTRY

GIRTON SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY

The Senior School cross country event was conducted at The Quarry Hill Golf Course on Thursday 20th April.

The fastest male over the shorter course was Xavier Dole (8F) and the fastest female was Matilda Moore (11A). The quickest for the longer course was Jarrod Slot (11A).

Jones were the champion House

AGE CHAMPIONS

- 13 Year Female – Caitlin Richardson (7Je) and Emily Everist (7A)
- 13 Year Male – Asher Butcher (8Je)
- 14 Year Female – Mila Grant (9Je)
- 14 Year Male – Angus Mayes (8Jo)
- 15 Year Female – Zahli Drummond (9Je)
- 15 Year Male – Xavier Dole (8F)
- 16 Year Female – Matilda Moore (10R)
- 16 Year Male – Kayle Thompson (11R)
- 17 Year Female – Kate Hadkins (11Fr)
- 17 Year Male – Jarrod Slot (11A)
- 20 Year Female – Iona Marsden-Sweeney (12M)
- 20 Year Male – Ryan Clegg (12F)

Students in the top five positions were invited to represent Girton in the Sandhurst Cross Country on Monday 24th April

SANDHURST CROSS COUNTRY

Girton placed third overall.

Top 3 Results:

- 13 Year Girls: 1st – Caitlin Richardson (7Je) Emily Everist (7A)

- 15 Girls: 1st – Zahli Drummond (9Je) 3rd - Jemma Boromeo (9R)

- 16 Girls: 1st - Matilda Moore (10R)

- Open Girls: 3rd - Kate Hadkins (11F)

REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

The Loddon Mallee Region cross country finals were conducted at St. Arnaud on Tuesday 6th June.

Eleven students represented Girton on a reasonably challenging course that included dirt trails with steep inclines.

Results:

- 13 Girls: 1st - Caitlin Richardson (7Je)
- 16 Girls: 1st - Matilda Moore (10R)
- 15 girls: 2nd - Zahli Drummond (9Je)
- 16 Girls: 7th – Sophie Shoebridge (10Jo)

These four students qualified for the Victorian Cross-Country Championships at Bundoora Park, Melbourne on Thursday 20th July.

Matilda Moore (10R) was placed 4th at the State Championships.

ICCES CROSS COUNTRY

A team of 25 runners travelled to Bundoora Park, Melbourne for the annual Independent Country Co-Educational Schools (ICCES) cross country event on Wednesday 2nd August.

Students competed in one of three categories,





depending on their year level.

Years 7 and 8 - Junior

Years 9 and 10 - Intermediate

Years 11 & 12 - Senior

Senior and Intermediate boys completed a distance of six kilometres while junior boys and girls competed over a distance of four kilometres.

Girton finished a competitive 4th overall with Gippsland Grammar taking out first place.

Girton students to achieve a Top 3 finish:

1st – Matilda Moore (Intermediate Girls)

2nd – Xavier Dole (Junior Boys)

3rd – Asher Butcher (Junior Boys)

3rd – Zahli Drummond (Intermediate Girls)

GIRTON JUNIOR SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 26th May, we were blessed with wonderful weather for the running of our Junior School Cross-Country Carnival. It is the final Junior School sports event involving the whole school for this year and it did not disappoint in terms of endeavour, sportsmanship and atmosphere. It is wonderful to see the connectedness between the year levels. Our younger students can see the older students compete and our older students can mentor and support their younger peers. It is fitting that the Junior School Cross Country is the final event for the year as it is structured to maximise this connectedness. It is always great to see our Year Six students running as mentors with the Preps. This is their last year in Junior School. For many it is their seventh Junior School Cross Country and there is a circularity in them guiding the Preps as they compete in their first. It is also a sign of the strong school culture that parents make time to come and watch and cheer on all the students as they cross the finish line. Our students all ran a bit faster down the final stretch to the finish line with all the other students and parents cheering them on.

Age Champions

Prep Girls:	Catherine Eng (PM)
Prep Boys:	Miles Crilly (PF)
Year 1 Girls:	Scarlett Shepherd (1A)
Year 1 Boys:	Steve Gayed (1F)
Year 2 Girls:	Ruby Flanagan (2Je)
Year 2 Boys:	Willem de Vries (2Je)
9 Year Girls:	Imogen Stewart (3M)
9 Year Boys:	Axel Drummond (3Je)
10 Year Girls:	Zara Paul (4R)
10 Year Boys:	Oliver Schelosky (4Jo)
11 Year Girls:	Kiara Primmer (5M)
11 Year Boys:	Lincoln McKern (5R)
12/13 Year Girls:	Olivia Green (6A)
12/13 Year Boys:	Patrick Byrne (6Jo)

The winning House was Frew

BADMINTON

(MIC: MRS DI ITTER)



Badminton has remained a popular co-curricular activity this year with approximately twenty-five students participating every Friday afternoon at the Eaglehawk stadium. Our coach, Craig Graham who is a former Australian badminton representative, has been working with students on skills practice and techniques. Each Friday, students participate in Round Robin competitions for both singles and doubles. Craig's expertise and advice has assisted students to develop their game play and their range of shots. Many of the students who participate in the Badminton Co-curriculum have represented Girton for the Independent Country Co-Educational Schools (ICCES) and Sandhurst competitions. This year, Year 7 and 8 boys team came runners-up in the ICCES competition and the Year 9 and 10 girls came fourth. Girton's Year 7 & 8 girls team came runners-up for the Sandhurst competition. Students continue to enjoy the competitive, yet social nature of the Badminton Co-Curriculum.

BASKETBALL

(MICS: MRS DEIRDRE TUNZI & MR JARRED VEHLEN SS)

(MICS: MR MARK DIFEDE & MICHELLE REY JS)

JUNIOR SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Girton Grammar School entered fifteen teams in the Bendigo Basketball Association Competition during the 2016/2017 Summer Season. Five teams made it through to the finals.

The Under 12 Girton Opals girls team, coached by Mr Craig Woodward, finished the season in fourth position on the ladder. The Opals played a tense match against the third place Aztec Gold with the full-time score tied at 17pts. The girls had scored 1

point only 30 seconds before full-time to even up the score! After three minutes of extra time and a few shots at goal, the girls lost the game 19pts – 18pts. They all played with enthusiasm and courage and were pleased to make it to their first final.

Under the experienced coaching of Mrs Kirstie Harvey, the Under 12 Girton Emeralds girls team finished in third place on the ladder for the season. The season was closely contested and included some courageous wins from behind against the top ranked teams in the later part of the season. In the semi-final against the Generals Fire, the Emeralds players realised early on that they would have to be careful not to foul, because of the extremely high refereeing standards that characterise finals games. Despite a warning from their coach, the players ended up with a total of over 19 fouls for the match! The girls fought hard and went back to basics, taking on the advice of their coach to get in front of opposition players in defence, and to work as team in offence, but unfortunately it was not enough, and the Generals won the match 26pts to 14pts. The girls were disappointed with the result, but Coach Harvey was very proud of all the players.

The Under 14 Division 3 Girton Lightning boys' team, coached by Mr Nathan Thompson, finished the season as runners-up. They defeated Aztec Green 31pts to 23pts in the Semi-Final but unfortunately lost the Grand Final in a close match, 22pts to 33pts, to the Heathcote Panthers.

The Leopards scraped into the finals on percentage. Coached by Romesh Jayasekera, the team put up a great fight in their Semi-Final but lost by 9pts.

The Under 12 Girton Lions boys' team, coached by Mr John Gibbs, also made the finals. The team finished fourth but unfortunately lost in their





Preliminary Final by 12pts.

For the 2017 Winter Season two teams made the finals. The Under 12 Division 1 Girton Emeralds, under the coaching of Mrs Kirstie Harvey, finished the season in fourth position. In their first final Girton won a nail biting game, 33pts – 32pts. In their second final, Girton was unfortunately on the receiving end of a 1 point loss, 19pts – 20pts, against Generals Fire. The team demonstrated excellent structure and teamwork to just miss out on progressing through to the Division 1 Grand Final.

The Under 12 Division 3 Girton Gems, coached by Mr Paul Flanagan, finished the season in second position. Only percentage separated the first three teams in a very even competition. In the Semi-Final, Girton was defeated 34pts – 17pts with the height of the opposition a key factor in the defeat. In the Preliminary Final, Girton lead the game for much of the first half but unfortunately was defeated 12pts – 22pts. Well done to both Mrs Harvey and Mr Flanagan on your teams' efforts during the 2017 Winter Season!

The Girton Eagles and Hawks competed in the boys Under 10 Section of the competition in both

the Summer and Winter seasons. The players were coached by Luke Drummond and Tyler Farmer. Both coaches have had a lot of experience with basketball coaching and the players improved because of this experience.

The Girton Grammar Basketball Club would like to acknowledge the coaches, staff, parents, Bendigo Braves and Bendigo Spirit players, and the students for their commitment to the Basketball Club over the 2016/2017 Summer and 2017 Winter Seasons.

SENIOR SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Girton Grammar School Basketball Club has once again experienced great success this year. We have been well represented both in domestic competition and at the inter-school competitions ICCES and Sandhurst.

In the 2016/17 Summer Season, the Senior School had eleven teams entered, with five of these making finals appearances. Three sides progressed to preliminary finals with

U18/20 girls Rubies, coached by Mr Scott Langan, being the only team to progress to the Grand Final, to be narrowly defeated by Pios (19pts – 23pts).

Eleven Girton teams played in the 2017 Winter Season. Six teams made it to finals with three teams, U16 boys Bulls coached by Mr Shaun McCarthy, U16 boys Raiders coached by Mr Mark Bell, and U18 boys Boiz co-coached by Mr James Everist and Mr Anthony Radford, making it to the Grand Final. It was a clean sweep with all three teams claiming victory.

Two of the teams won very convincingly; the Raiders defeated Beavers 34pts to 18pts with Xavier Dole as MVP, and the Boiz defeated Beavers 46pts to 26pts with the MVP going to Tom McNair. The U16 Bulls had a tighter game winning by only 1 point in the last 6 seconds of the game defeating the previously undefeated Celtic Nation 34pts to 33pts! These two teams had a double overtime Semi-Final only two weeks earlier with Celtic coming out on top in that match. The boys were certainly very happy to have turned the result around in the Grand Final. MVP for the game went to Edward Carr.

The ICCES Winter Tour had mixed results for Girton Basketball this year. Over the two days, competition was tough. The Years 7–9 boys achieved third place, and the

Years 10–12 boys and girls placed fourth. The Years 7–9 girls had a great two days, winning most of their games. All the challenging work at training paid off as they made it to the Grand Final to lose by only 1 point in the dying seconds of the game. It is always heartbreaking to lose by 1 point, but the girls should be very happy with their performance. Thank you to our coaches, Mr Shaun McCarthy, Mr Marcus Smalley, Mr Dean Norris and Mrs Sally Monichino, and of course to our players for an exciting and competitive two days.

Girton teams also represented at the Sandhurst Division Junior and Intermediate Competition. The





Year 7 boys, coached by Ben Pignataro (12F), placed second, the Year 7 girls were first, aptly coached by Mrs Sally Monichino, and the Year 8 girls, coached by Lucy Morgan (12Jo) placed fourth. The Year 9–10 boys, coached by Mr Dean Norris, finished fourth and the Year 9–10 girls, also coached by Lucy Morgan (12Jo), finished in second place. The Year 7 boys lost their Semi-Final to Marist College and the Year 9–10 girls lost their Semi-Final to Crusoe College. The Year 7 girls finished in first place in their pool and played Marist in the Semi-Final, winning by 15 points. The girls then played Catholic College in the Grand Final competing well to win by 9 points and progress through to the School Sports Victoria Loddon Mallee Competition to be held on 26th October, where they will play Rochester for a chance to play in the School Sports Victoria finals in Melbourne this November. We wish the girls the very best of luck!

The Girton Basketball Club has once again had the privilege of receiving the coaching and guidance of the local Bendigo Braves and Bendigo Spirit players. To be coached and mentored by professional athletes has been invaluable for the Club. There has been a marked improvement in the overall skill level of Girton players thanks to the Program. The presence of Brave and Spirit players at training has allowed both Girton players and coaches to augment their understanding of and passion for the sport, and the time that they have given to helping the development of our basketball players is greatly appreciated.

We extend a hearty thank you to our parent and student coaches for giving their time and expertise to guide their teams at games and training, as well as the managers of our teams.

A special mention must go to Ms Kerry Phillips who has recently hung up her coaching hat after many years coaching Girton Basketball teams. We sincerely thank you for your service and all the time that you have given to help our players from junior through to senior teams.

Finally, we thank our players. Throughout the Summer and Winter seasons they have presented themselves professionally and have played with vigour and determination. They have represented the School so well, and we look forward to the seasons ahead and their ongoing commitment to the Girton Grammar School Basketball Club.

BEARS 'N STUFF

(MIC: MRS LINDA ARNEL)

This activity has attracted eighteen students this year who are developing their understanding of patterns and honing their needlework skills in the production of their own jointed teddy bear. Holding the class at lunchtime in the library has been more attractive than the previous after school activity time, with more students being able to attend.

CHESS



(MIC: MRS ROBYN KRISTENSON)

The Chess Club is made up of a very lively and commitment group of chess players from Year Seven through to Year Eleven. Mr Gareth Mills continues to support the Club giving his time every Wednesday afternoon to teach new skills and to challenge students to games. As part of the program we have an in-house competition which encourages friendly rivalry and helps to build competition skills.

This Year we entered two competitions. The first the ICCES Chess Competition held at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. The team was made up of three teams of four members who played in the 7/8 year group, the 9/10 year group and the 11/12 year group. While our teams did not take out an award they played with skill and commitment. The 9/10 team was made up of Year 7 and Year 8 students and they received some excellent individual results. We also entered the Mt Alexander School's Chess Competition and achieved a very creditable 6th place. This competition was for all secondary students and it was very rewarding to see our younger students take on Year twelve students from other schools.

CINEMATOGRAPHY

(MIC: MR BEN GIBBONS)

Cinematography is a Co-curricular activity in its third year at Girton Grammar School. Throughout the year the students have been honing their framing, composition, focal depth, green screening and editing skills. Cinematography students have partaken in the capture of many Girton events including: Forever Young, sporting events, junior and senior productions, concerts, TEDx as well as Speech Night and Foundation Day. Cinematography is held on a Wednesday from 3:45pm-4:45pm in the Performing Arts Building.

CITY TO SURF

(MIC: MR ANDREW LORINCZ)

Over 60 students participated in the early morning Wednesday training sessions and 35 students went to Sydney for the City2Surf event. It was great to see five parents regularly train with us, as well four keen teachers. Three student teams that ventured to Sydney performed very well again.

Boys Under 16 team: 2nd place

Girls Under 18 team: 1st place

Boys Under 18 team: 1st place

From an individual viewpoint Matilda Moore (10R) achieved the fastest Girton female time of 58.30 minutes, which is a new school record. In addition, Matilda came first in the 16-19 year old girls group consisting of 1200 entrants; an amazing achievement. Nelson Beks (11M) achieved the fastest male time of 59.50 minutes. The City2Surf Group also prepared for two other major fun runs, including for the first time this year, the O'Keefe Rail Trail Marathon. We entered two relay teams of seven runners, each team covering the 42 kilometres in the Ekiden Relay. Out of 25 teams we came a very impressive second and third. Additionally, City2Surf students participate in the Bendigo Bank Fun Run in Term Four. The extra events and expansion of the activity is challenging students continually with personal goal achievement and fitness improvement.

CRE@TE IT

(MIC: MR JOHN PHILLIPS)

CRE@TE IT is a popular fun and enterprising activity. This year has seen increasing numbers again from younger students as ICT, Digital Media and a technology focus become more important for their futures. Students practice basic coding, web page design and construction, animation, film and video, photography, digital illustration, sound editing and scriptwriting. This year saw a greater focus





on coding and the development of applications for mobile devices. An improved structure and sequencing of activities utilising the school's ASTRA web portal has delivered strong benefits for engagement, learning, skill development and creative collaboration. Astra has allowed greater resource sharing and the ability for students to present samples of their project work via the web. Technical play, creativity, problem solving and team collaboration are very much part of the program. The students experienced working individually or in small teams creatively designing, solving and publishing ideas and solutions.

CRICKET

(MIC: MR. MARCUS SMALLEY)

Throughout 2017, Girton Cricket teams represented the school in eight games. The teams were divided into Junior (Years 7 & 8), Intermediate (Years 9 & 10) and Seniors (the best players in the school from Years 7 – 12). The Junior games against Goulburn Valley Grammar are a combination of Years 7 – 9.

The Senior team played three games; Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Shepparton, Catholic College and Bendigo Senior Secondary College. Despite being outclassed by GVGS and Catholic College, Girton recorded a convincing victory against BSSC. The player accumulating the most runs for the season was Kayle Thompson (11R) and the leading bowler was shared between Harrison Morley (10Je), Harry Keck (11A) and again Kayle Thompson (11R).

The Year 9 & 10 cricketers played two games, against Catholic College Team 2 and Catholic College Team 1, recording a win against CCB's second team, but unable to replicate their success against the very strong First Team outfit.

The Year 7 - 8 team played games against Crusoe College and Eaglehawk Secondary College, losing a close first game against Crusoe but recording

strong win against Eaglehawk. Aidan Clemens (7M) performed well with the bat, while Elliot Leech (7Jo) took 3 wickets in the win over Eaglehawk.

Kayle Thompson (11R) won the coveted perpetual shield, as the 2017 Girton Cricket Champion.

Our representative sides are performing much better than in previous year and selection in these sides has become very competitive. While our teams did not secure widespread success, we did surpass our wins tally from last year and anticipate further growth in this area next season.

DANCE

(MIC: MRS LINDA ARNEL)

Dance has again been a popular after school activity with 41 students taking classes. Both contemporary and classical classes have been taught throughout the week. Sixteen students presented for RAD Classical ballet examinations this year with very good results achieved.

A concert is held in the Black Box at the end of the year to showcase students' work from both the Classical and Contemporary classes as well as having some guest performances from the VCE Dance students.

DEBATING

(MIC: DR ANDREW ITTER & MRS KATHRYN BARTON)

The Girton Grammar School Debating Team spent its weekly meetings learning skills in debating and building confidence in addressing audiences. The senior school debaters modelled the skills to those new to the craft.

We congratulate this year's best speakers for the Impromptu Speed Debating Tournament: Juniors, Lasith Kulasekera (8Jo) and Eliza O'Sullivan (8Jo) equally shared; Seniors (Pool A), Alexander O'Shea (12A) and Alexander Nielsen (12M) equally shared; and Seniors (Pool B), Sankalpa Gamage (11Je).

Harry Shobanan (11R) also won the Golden Cram-Card award for Best First Year Debater.

Girton Grammar School competed at this year's ICCES Debating under the guidance of Co-MiC Mrs Kathryn Barton, coming third place overall. We congratulate all students for participating, in particular Eliza O'Sullivan (8Jo) and Alexander Nielsen (12M) who won best speakers in their debates.

Students also competed in the Debaters' Association of Victoria (DAV) Schools' Competitions. We congratulate all students for participating and the following students who achieved best speakers in these competitions: D Grade, Aubrey Jacobs (8Jo) twice, James Brown (9F), Noah Ashby (9F), Dominic tune (9Je), and Lasith Kulasekera (8Jo); C Grade, Jordan Rogers (10M); VCE (Year 11) Grade, Stephanie Brunner (11Jo) twice, Harrishman Shobanan (11R), Rivani Porwal (11M); VCE (Year 12) Grade, Alexander Nielsen (12M) three times, Kavindu Hathurusinghe (12Je), Alexander O'Shea (12A), and Khaden Jones (12A) three times.

Our VCE Grade (Year 11) team consisting of Aleksandra Babovic (11Je), Brontë Maruff (11Je) and Stephanie Brunner (11Jo) progressed to the DAV State Playoffs, and one VCE Grade team consisting of Kavindu Hathurusinghe (12Je), Alexander O'Shea (12A), Alexander Nielsen (12M) and Milos Babovic (12Je) progressed to the State Quarter-finals, with Alexander Nielsen winning best speaker in the playoff and Octo Final, and Alexander O'Shea winning best speaker in the Quarter Final. We also congratulate Alexander Nielsen who won the DAV Swannie Award for the best speaker for the Bendigo region in the VCE Grade.

Three Girton teams competed in the UN Evatt Competition, consisting of Charlie Wardrop (10A) and Jordan Rogers (10M), Alexander O'Shea (12A) and Khaden Jones (12A), and Alexander Nielsen (12M) and Milos Babovic (12Je), the latter two of which progressed to State Final at Parliament House, Melbourne.

Special thanks also go to Alexander Nielsen (12M) for his excellent service as Captain of debating this year.

DRAMA AND PERFORMING ARTS

(MIC: MR NICHOLAS PEASE)

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS AND BACKSTAGE CLUB

This year, the Drama Department staged three major productions with exceptional performances and professional technical assistance from all students involved. Not to mention near sell-out seasons for all productions. As Director of the Senior School Production, Mr Nicholas Pease worked with students throughout the course of Semester One with an adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The





staging involved incredible LED screens that evoked the numerous settings, a live band played current songs with a 20's jazz vibe and the costumes ranged from Art Deco-inspired fairies and lovers to name but a few. This production was staged at the historic Capitol Theatre. The Girton Grammar School and local Bendigo communities were very supportive towards the production, with nearly all performances selling out. Special mention goes to Mr Josh McGuffie, Mr Michael Lichnovsky, Mrs Jennifer Schatzle, Ms Joanne Grech, Mrs Jacinta Jackson, and Miss Kaddison Kearin for their fine work on coaching the actors in singing, dancing and acting.

Director of the Year Eight Production, Ms Joanne Grech, worked with the entire cohort on a Broadway classic; a production of 'Singin in the Rain Jnr'. Needless to say, the challenges of working with so many students and getting them to sing, dance and act is no easy task. But Ms Grech, assisted by Mrs Jackson helped the students rise to the occasion with bright dances, catchy show tunes and a phenomenal acting from the lead cast. Again, these shows were sell-outs in the school's Higgs Hall.

Term Four saw the Junior School Production of Dr Seuss's 'The Lion King Jnr.' directed by our wonderful Junior Drama teacher Mrs Mandy Ellison. It was so exciting to watch all our younger performers transform into Mufassa, Scar, Simba and Nala as well as the many other wonderful characters inspired by the Disney film. A big thank you to Mrs Laura Dusseljee for her work with all the singers.

Technical and logistical aspects of all these productions were handled expertly by John McMillan and Mr Martin O' Rielly. Our Backstage Club members were also brilliant in handling set and prop movement and construction.

Finally, the sourcing of all costumes for each production was provided by the lovely Mrs Anita Scott from 'Scott's Mascot and Costume Hire'. Her work is very much appreciated by the Girton Performing Arts staff. It was also wonderful to work alongside her son, Mr Ian Scott, who provided us with his technical expertise with lighting and multimedia. Mr Scott's work was evident through the use of the amazing LED screens during the Senior School Production and lighting our other school productions.

Overall, there has certainly been an abundance of positive connections made among both staff and students in the midst of all this work. These productions are key experiences for Drama, Dance and Theatre Studies students who learn key skills such as speaking and presenting to an audience, remaining focused and working patiently alongside their classmates to achieve a creative vision.

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

The Drama Department ran the fourth annual 'The Performing Arts Showcase' which combined some of our strongest performers across multiple disciplines including Drama, Theatre Studies, Digital

Media, Media Studies and Dance. Four awards were also awarded including 'Performer of the Year', 'Performer of the Year – Runner-up', 'The Distinction Award' and 'People's Choice Award'. The awards not only recognise the wonderful performance skills of the students but also their ability to lead and encourage other students in the Performing Arts.

Congratulations to Khaden Jones (12A) for his outstanding direction and performing as part of the Senior School Production which won him 'Performer of the Year'. Congratulations also to Yasmin Harith Brewer (12M) who won the 'Performer of the Year – Runner-up' for her media film 'Weightless' and to Jacob Ware (9A) for his contemporary dance solo which took out the 'People's Choice Award' as well as 'The Distinction Award'.

THE ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

(MIC MRS JACINTA JACKSON)

This year's One Act Play Festival was yet another example of the student's passion for performance. Students were given the opportunity to prepare a short 'One Act' play which can either be scripted or devised for performance in front of an audience at the end of Term. Students were responsible for the direction and rehearsal of their plays and learnt the vital skills that are involved in preparing for a performance.

Overall, performances ranged from outlandish comedy to sophisticated dramas and fairytale characters. All of the performances were well received by the audience and judges. The Drama Captains Bronte Bailey (12M) and Khaden Jones (12A), hosted the evening in a professional manner and bubbly enthusiasm. Congratulations to this

year's winners 'The Brunch Bunch' for taking out the coveted 'One Act Play - Best Overall Production Award'.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

(MIC: MR GRAHAM CRICKMORE)

"The Award is a leading structured (non-formal education) youth development program, empowering all young Australians between age 14 to 25 to explore their full potential regardless of their location or circumstance. The Award is a fully inclusive program. Each young person who takes part in the Award learns a skill, improves their physical wellbeing, volunteers in their community and experiences a team adventure in a new environment.

Through this challenging journey of self-discovery, our Participants:

- are equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best
- learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices
- become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community
- make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement
- learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success
- learn important life skills
- increase their career opportunities

For the Year 2017, Girton Grammar students once again performed admirably under the conditions of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme:





They begin at the introductory level of Bronze, (Year Nine), work towards the Intermediate level of Silver (Year Ten) and then onto the advanced level of Gold (Year's Eleven & Twelve).

An electronic record book, recognized world-wide, provides each participant with a "diary" of their achievements, incorporating each of the disciplines defined above.

In summary, the Year Nine students are very close to completing their Bronze requirements.

Year Ten students have completed their Bronze: with many needing to finalize the minor requirements for their Silver.

The Year Eleven and Twelve students who completed their Silver in 2016 have begun their Gold requirements and are once again juggling the components that need to be fulfilled with their academic and other school and personal commitments.

With special mention to the following:

Charlotte (Lottie) Lawlor (12A), Sarah Johnston (12E) & Miranda Knowles (12R) who have completed their individual Gold Awards, the latter two awaiting final approval.

The practice and test Hikes/Expeditions, usually the highlight of the year, took students to various parts of Victoria and the World:

Bronze Hike (Camps Week) Mt Feathertop to Falls Creek, Howqua Valley and Lake Eildon.

Silver/Bronze Expedition/Residential Project: Unit ½ & Unit ¾ Outdoor Education & Environmental Studies including Science Space - STEM Camp to USA.

Gold /Silver/Bronze Hike (December Holidays)
Great South West Walk Portland Victoria

Special thanks to, Mrs Marijke Horvath for her continued support of the Duke of Edinburgh program, especially in regards to the Expeditions, and Miranda Knowles (12R) for her diligence and commitment to the Award as Captain for the past two years.

EQUESTRIAN

(MIC: MR DAN SLATER)

The Girton equestrian team consisted of twelve members who participated in events throughout Victoria. Most club members belong to pony clubs and compete on a regular basis in their local club events.

Students attend regular meetings to share information about their particular disciplines and to prepare for upcoming events.

Our team captain, Lottie Lawlor (12A) was instrumental in planning nine events throughout the year for our team members. The activities ranged from Graded competitions, endurance events, lessons given by competent instructors or guest speakers who shared their knowledge of various aspects of horsemanship.

FOOTBALL

(MIC: MR CLINT WHITSED)

Girton had a very successful year with regard to the participation of players in our football competitions. We fielded teams in all of the major Sandhurst competitions. The boys represented Girton at Year Seven, Year Eight and a combined Year Nine and

Ten team. The Year Seven and Eight sides both finished a respectable third in their competitions.

As has been well publicized, the growth in the participation of girls in football was mirrored at Girton. We fielded a combined Year Seven and Eight team and a Year Nine and Ten team, both of which also finished third. The school was also involved in the inaugural ICCES Football Day, which allowed combined boys teams from Years Seven and Eight, and Nine and Ten and senior girls from combined Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve to compete. In very windy conditions all teams contested well.

Our senior boys team consisting of students from Years Ten to Twelve played in two friendly matches against Castlemaine Secondary College and Ballarat Grammar. We also had the privilege, earlier in the year to welcome two highly experienced Melbourne Footballers: Jake Spencer and Aaron Vandenberg, who shared their experiences on what it takes to play at the highest level.

Representing Girton on the football field provides our students with the opportunity to play together outside their club environment and is always enjoyed by those who take part. It also provides students who don't normally play this great game an opportunity to try a different sport and for all players, whether experienced or not, to proudly represent Girton.

JUNIOR SCHOOL FOOTBALL

(MR PAUL FLANAGAN AND MR JAMIE TURNER)

2017 saw the continuation of Junior School Footy Training. As always, students in Years One to Year Six enjoyed two terms of fun filled football training sessions every Friday night. Each week students participated in skill sessions and concluded with a modified game. This year, we again strengthened our relationship with the Bendigo Pioneers with players attending a number of sessions, much to the delight of our students. Students also competed in the annual match against Ballarat Grammar School held at Bendigo, including an inaugural girl's match. Girton successfully retained the Flanagan-Warwick Shield.

GIRTONLINE

(MIC: MR SAM A'BECKETT)

GirtOnline is a co-curricular activity for all students in the senior school whose focus is on digital citizenship and cyber-safety through education. The students meet each Friday at lunchtime and discuss the latest trends and developments in the online world, particularly regarding what is popular among the student cohort at the moment. We also write articles and reviews of popular games, social media sites and apps which often feature in the eLink. The group also serves in an advisory capacity to support the Digital Citizenship and Cyber-Safety Parent Advisory Group.

GIRTON COMMUNITY





ACTION GROUP

(MIC: MRS MELINDA NAUGHTON)

The Girton Community Action Group (GeeCAG) has enjoyed another active year in 2017. Our numbers have swelled this year and included students from Years 7-12. Our members continued to work hard to raise awareness of key issues, such as Diversity, Refugees Rights and Well-being and Mental Health Awareness. This year's efforts commenced when GeeCAG celebrated World Harmony Day in Term One, followed by National Sorry Day in Term Two. Term Three "kicked off" by celebrating RUOK Day with the much anticipated staff versus student soccer match (which the students won for the third consecutive year!). GeeCAG raised more than \$400 for Beyond Blue on the day. This year we bid a fond farewell to some of our founding Year 12 members who have been with the group since its formation. This core group of dedicated students have led this group with passion and enthusiasm, overseeing many cultural changes within the school and inspiring the younger members to carry on this important role. We look forward to new challenges in 2018.

GIRTON COMMUNITY SERVICE

(MIC: MR CLAYTON W. JONES, OAM)

Girton Service assists staff and the School with all sorts of tasks such as sorting camping equipment, laminating posters, assisting teachers to mass produce teaching aids, typing model essays, reorganising the drama store, aiding Junior students with reading, art and more.

It was a relatively quiet year with fewer staff asking for tasks to be done. While the numbers fluctuated by the term, Girton Service had about twenty regular contributors, many from Year Eight. Some members from Eight Frew and Ten Frew proved very reliable and hard-working. All who have contributed are thanked for their service.

THE GIRTONIAN - MAGAZINE

(MIC: MRS CARYN CLARK)

The focus of The Girtonian magazine continues to be about involving our senior students to take ownership over key areas of contribution in the delivery of the School magazine. This year, we have a student editorial team of eighteen, including students from Years 10 to 12, with representation across all Houses. In particular, we would like to thank Ruby Stone (12R) for her continued photographic contributions, where she is always willing to cover a range of School events, all while maintaining her studies. This year, the students chose to form key sub-committees so they could channel their energies and focus into particular areas of interest. Our sub-committees focused on the whole School Creative Writing competition, the Girtonian Cover Design competition, our Junior School liaison team, as well as responsibilities for the range of Co-Curricular, Year level and Captains' reports. Being involved in the editorial duties of the Girtonian continues to provide these students



with opportunities to work with students across different year levels, build a range of communication skills, and nurture leadership and public speaking opportunities, such as addressing Senior and Junior School assemblies. As well, this year has seen the introduction of a new level of recognition in the Creative Writing competition, where the students wanted to encourage first-time writers to participate. Born of this discussion is the new 'Endeavour' section for first-time contributors. As always, the continued contribution of Mrs Kristen Beever must be recognised. Her expertise in digital design, lay-out advice and shaping a continually evolving magazine format which responds to the varied activities of the school is invaluable to the smooth production of the Magazine, and her time is appreciated. Many thanks must also go to the staff who work 'behind the scenes' to provide exemplary student writing, who encourage and nominate new writing talent to contribute to recording the school's rich, diverse and busy life, and who continue to foster the talents of many students. Finally, my personal thanks to the enthusiastic, committed students who have contributed their time, energy and professionalism as part of the Girtonian Editorial team. It is a privilege to be part of their creative team, and to enjoy their enormous contributions to keep our dear Old Lady alive, relevant and evolving with the times.

GIRTON GAMES

(MIC: MR MICHAEL ROBERTSON)

Girton Games is a sporting program catering for students in Preparatory, Year One and Year Two. It is aimed at enhancing physical activity and increasing participation levels for younger students through fun games. The program is run each Wednesday

night after school and student numbers have averaged forty throughout the year. In Term One, students were involved in ball handling skills and minor games. Term Two had a Soccer and Football focus. In Term Three, students had the opportunity to participate in basketball clinics. Ben Harvey, the current Bendigo Braves coach coordinated the sessions along with current players who assisted the students with the development of their skills. In Term Four, the focus was ball handling and cricket.

GIRTON RACING TEAM

(MIC: MR NIGEL VERNON, ASSISTANTS: MR ROD KNOWLES, MR MATTHEW GREENWOOD, MR ROD SMITH AND MR CHRIS LANDVOGT)

The Girton Racing Team (GRT) announced the beginning of the 2017 Human Powered Vehicle (HPV) and Energy Efficient Vehicle (EEV) racing campaign with an inaugural GRT Season Launch. Held in the Black Box the 2016 Captains of GRT, Maddison Ashby (12A) and Montague Velthuis (12M) recapped a most successful 2016 season before handing over the duties to Prudence Whiteley (11R), 2017 Captain of GRT. After much suspense and excitement from the present GRT students, families and season sponsors Prudence took the covers off the three HPV vehicles, resplendent in their brand-new season 2017 race colours.

In February the GRT Senior Secondary HPV entry, Intrepid and two Middle Secondary entries, Introuble and Infusion entered Round One of the Victorian HPV Series held over six hours at Casey Fields. At race completion Intrepid was awarded 1st place, Introuble 3rd and Infusion 4th. A month





later, Mr Rod Smith, Mr Robin Kirby (long-serving stalwart of the GRT) and Mr Lucas Kirby, OGA 2016 chaperoned the only Australian Secondary School entry (for the second successive year) in the prestigious Shell Eco Marathon Asia, hosted in Singapore. The many months of planning, designing, building and trailing of the GRT ethanol engine entry resulted in the small team of dedicated engineers achieving 9th place overall from almost 50 teams with a stunning 500.6 km/ltr and also receiving the Technical Innovation Award and cheque for USD \$3,000. An award that is only one of three presented each year globally by the Shell Company

With the ingenuity of Mr Robin and Mr Lucas Kirby, working with Mr Rod Smith and the GRT Shell Eco Marathon division, the team is endeavoring to compete at the 2018 event, again in Singapore in a brand new, all electric vehicle. The prototype of this vehicle underwent wind tunnel testing at the invitation of Monash University, leading to the team's construction of the technologically advanced vehicle.

A decision was made to not compete at Round Two of the Victorian HPV Series in Wonthaggi. Being a grueling race, and not necessary for the points table in the series the GRT HPV Division attention was focused on Round Three, the Knox Grand Prix. A technically challenging course, with long sections of up and down hill, feeding into very tight left and right corners the teams placed in 1st (Intrepid), 2nd (Introuble) and 3rd (Infusion). Race four of the Series, being a nine-hour race pitted the GRT teams against more than 90 vehicles on the street circuit of the Bendigo Grand Prix. Team Intrepid was awarded 2nd, Introuble 5th and Infusion a very respectable 10th place. A rewarding

achievement for several first-time racers competing in a challenging night time event.

The final race of Victorian HPV Series of six hours of racing was held back at Casey Fields. In the lead-up to the final race team Intrepid had a 1-point championship lead in the Senior Secondary category. Team Introuble was placed 2nd in the Middle Secondary and Infusion 3rd, in the same category. By race end Intrepid placed 1st on the day, Introuble 3rd and Infusion 5th. Overall, team Intrepid was awarded the Senior Secondary, Victorian HPV Series Championship, while Introuble and Infusion gained success in the Middle Secondary Series Championship.

GRT cyclists competed in the Victorian School's Cycling Championship Road and the Victorian Interscholls Cycling Series Mountain Bike during the year. Place getters from these locally held qualifying events proceeded to the October, Bendigo State Final Festival, admirably representing Girton Grammar School at both the Road and Mountain Bike events. Additionally, the Cycling division of the GRT underwent changes and a new focus, offering a programme of cycling, bike maintenance and fitness training, as well as the introduction of occasional weekend rides and participation in organized cycling events.

At the November RACV Energy Breakthrough, 24-hour event held in Maryborough our EEV, Xception is hoping to continue their undefeated record. Unlike previous years, the vehicle will be an all-electric powered vehicle, re-charging via a solar panel system mounted on the GRT vehicle trailer in a bid to be the first school competing with a zero-carbon footprint. Also racing at this event will

be our three HPV teams, one of which will be an all-female team in their second successive year of competing.

The construction and maintenance of the GRT human powered and energy efficient vehicles involves many hours of labor. Each student and family member of the GRT owe much gratitude to Mr Robin Kirby, Mr Lucas Kirby OGA, and Mr David Stone. For their continued involvement, the GRT thank the Kirby and Stone families.

Much gratitude is also forwarded to our generous sponsors and benefactors without whom we would not have been able to maintain the GRT, let alone record the continuing degree of success.

Bendigo Bank, Austens Accounting, Honda, Littles Competition Services, Click Control Systems, Neil Pearce, Low-Cost Cars, The Oil Warehouse, Valvoline Australia, Repco Auto Parts, Poppet Head Estate, John Taylor (Think HPV), Darren Chamberlin Signs, Fernwood Gym, Eaglehawk Lions Club, Perrows Paints, Gel-tek Composites and Bendigo Grand Prix.

GROUP FITNESS

(MIC: MS KRISTY NICHOLLS)

Group Fitness was conducted every Thursday afternoon. The focus of Group Fitness is to improve strength and fitness primarily through resistance training. Students participated in classes which included resistance training, core strength and cardiovascular fitness on the spin bikes. The program is suitable for students of all ages and fitness levels. Ms Nicholls thoroughly enjoyed instructing the group of enthusiastic, motivated



students who pushed themselves a little harder each week and executed exercises with correct technique. It has been a satisfying, and successful year.

HOCKEY

(MIC: MRS MEL SCHOLES)

During 2017, Girton Hockey fielded three teams U/13, U/15 and U/17 in the Hockey Central Victoria (HCV) Junior Competition. As in previous years, students unable to play for Girton due to age restrictions had the opportunity to play senior hockey with other teams in the Central Victorian Hockey Association.

Girton employed a specialist hockey coach for our Under 17 team in 2017 to support Girton staff managers. We also had Girton students volunteer their time and expertise to coach the U/15 and U/13 teams. New and experienced players developed important skills during training and games.

Award winners for the winter season were as follows:

Under 13's

Best & Fairest: James Kay (7M)
Coaches Award: Emily Anderson (6R)
Most Improved: Samuel Kay (5M)
and Aiden Brown (7A)

Under 15's

Best & Fairest: William Douglass (9Je)
Coaches Award: Seth Ralph (8F)
Most Improved: Felicity White (9R)

Under 17's

Best & Fairest: Emily Van der Drift (11M)
Coaches Award: Remy Monaghan (11F)
Most Improved: Peregrin Hawke (10M)

Girton Hockey entered teams in the local Sandhurst competition. Victory was achieved by our Year 4/5/6 Girls team. They continued to the regional

competition in Swan Hill and finished 3rd. Our Year 5/6 Boys team finished 2nd overall. The Year 7/8 Girls team finished 4th and the Year 7/8 boys team finished 2nd. Our Year 9/10 girls team finished 4th and our Year 9/10 girls team finished 5th. Girton Hockey also entered a Senior Boys team which competed in the ICCES competition in Shepparton where the team finished second.

At the Hockey Central Victoria's presentation night, Max Rowley (12M) was awarded the Junior Sports Star of the Year award. James Kay (7M) and Emily Van der Drift (11M) are congratulated for receiving nominations for awards.

Kayle Thompson (11R), Lachlan Archibald (10R) and Hamish Archibald (8R) represented HCV in the Under 16 Blazers team with Lachlan achieving highest goal scorer of the season. An outstanding achievement.

KAYAKING

(MIC: MRS INGRID DOUGLASS)

The inaugural Girton Kayaking Club commenced at the beginning of Term One, 2017. This co-curricular activity occurs on Tuesday nights during Terms One and Four at Lake Weeroona. The focus of this new co-curricular activity was to encourage students to try something new and learn the basics of kayaking. Over the course of Term One, a six-week "learn-to" program was facilitated by The Bendigo Canoe Club under the supervision and guidance of coach, Ms Rebecca Mann who has represented Australia in several National Kayaking Teams. The six-week program allowed students to gain balance and control in the more stable kayaks before transitioning to TK1 and K1 kayaks. In addition to kayaking, the students also experienced an evening of stand-up paddle boarding facilitated by Still Water Paddle Sports. Overall, we had twelve regular attendees with several of these students opting to continue to practice their kayaking over the Winter months. In Term Four

students will participate in a "friendly" regatta. It is hoped that as the student's skills develop, they will be able to represent the school at future School Championships. This new co-curricular program has been highly successful and will continue in 2018.

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

(MIC: MRS ALISOUN DOWNING)

This year, Girton had a strong team of very able Year 12 students to compete in the 'Lions Youth of the Year Competition, 2017'. The students were: Declan Rochford (12F), Harvey Gibbs (12Jo), Eva Scopelliti (12M), Jemuel Pryse (12Je), Jemima Morris (12A), Jameson Crawford (12F), Nicola James (12Je), Alexander Nielsen (12M), Alexander O'Shea (12A), Bailey Edwards (12M), Tessa McNaulty (12Je) and Montague Veltuis (12M).

From the various Bendigo Lions Clubs' competitions, we nailed a number of Best Speakers at the local club level, but, most excitingly, had three of our students progress to the next round - the Zone Final. This was held in early March, at the Bendigo Pottery. Our competing students were Alexander O'Shea (12A), (who had won at Maiden Gully-Marong), Harvey Gibbs (12Jo) (winner at Huntly-Epsom) and Jameson Crawford (12F) (victorious at Strathfieldsaye).

These students were great representatives of Girton, not only for the general, gracious way in which they conducted themselves, but also their sharp personal presentation, their friendliness, and their respectfulness to Lions personnel and the general audience. At this event, we also had notable successes - Alexander O'Shea (12A) won the Best Speaker on the night, and Jameson Crawford (12F) went on the win Zone Champion and the renowned 'Betty Jenkin Shield'. This meant he was off to compete in the next round - the District Final - at a special Gala Dinner in Carisbrook, on March 25.

At this event, Jameson Crawford (12F) competed





against six other competitors - from Ouyen, Ballarat, Donald, Sydenham, Pascoe Vale and inner Melbourne, He again showed such presence, good humour, graciousness and gravitas - apart from his obvious competence at both speech sections on the night. By the end of the evening, Jameson had scooped the pool – winning both the ‘Best Speaker’ and ‘District Champion’ awards.

Jameson Crawford (12F) was now off to compete at the State Final in Shepparton; an event that was later described by our attending staff member, Joanne Grech, as ‘an amazing night’. Whilst he did not, finally, win on the night, it is worth sharing Joanne’s comments about just how wonderfully Jameson acquitted himself at this prestigious event. These were Joanne’s words:

‘Jameson was a great ambassador for our school. He interacted with the other candidates, as well as a number of Lion members from various locations, with such ease and grace. I think my defining moment of the night came whilst Jameson was completing his impromptu speeches. After finishing one speech, there is a minute or two’s break, whilst the judges finish writing. During this time, Jameson was confidently conversing quietly with the MC, as if he didn’t have a care in the world! He was so professional and this filled me with such pride.’

This is a lovely reminder that ‘winning’, in the way we sometimes think, is not everything; we can ‘win’ in other ways, which Jameson clearly demonstrated on the night.

It must also be said that each of the students competing this year were a complete delight to work with and they certainly ‘did their school very proud’ at their various competitions in 2017.

A very big thank you must also go to the following teachers who assisted, with direct support of the students, by attending one of the Club Sessions: Amber Weston, Nigel Vernon, Christine Phillips, Kerrie Stewart, Joanne Grech and Mo Watanabe. And, finally, an extra, heartfelt thank you goes especially to Joanne Grech, who also made the trip

to Shepparton to attend the State Finals, on behalf of Girton.

MAGAZINE

(MIC: MRS CARYN CLARK)

The focus of The Girtonian magazine continues to be about involving our senior students to take ownership over key areas of contribution in the delivery of the School magazine. This year, we have a student editorial team of eighteen, including students from Years 10 to 12, with representation across all Houses. In particular, we would like to thank Ruby Stone (12 Riley) for her continued photographic contributions, where she is always willing to cover a range of School events, all while maintaining her studies. This year, the students chose to form key sub-committees so they could channel their energies and focus into particular areas of interest. Our sub-committees focused on the whole School Creative Writing competition, the Girtonian Cover Design competition, our Junior School liaison team, as well as responsibilities for the range of Co-Curricular, Year level and Captains’ reports. Being involved in the editorial duties of the Girtonian continues to provide these students with opportunities to work with students across different year levels, build a range of communication skills, and nurture leadership and public speaking opportunities, such as addressing Senior and Junior School assemblies. As well, this year has seen the introduction of a new level of recognition in the Creative Writing competition, where the students wanted to encourage first-time writers to participate. Born of this discussion is the new ‘Endeavour’ section for first-time contributors. As always, the continued contribution of Mrs Kristen Beever must be recognised. Her expertise in digital design, lay-out advice and shaping a continually evolving magazine format which responds to the varied activities of the school is invaluable to the smooth production of the Magazine, and her time is appreciated. Many thanks must also go to the staff

who work ‘behind the scenes’ to provide exemplary student writing, who encourage and nominate new writing talent to contribute to recording the school’s rich, diverse and busy life, and who continue to foster the talents of many students. Finally, my personal thanks to the enthusiastic, committed students who have contributed their time, energy and professionalism as part of the Girtonian Editorial team. It is a privilege to be part of their creative team, and to enjoy their enormous contributions to keep our dear Old Lady alive, relevant and evolving with the times.

MUSIC

(MIC: MR STEVE VINE)

The Music Department has continued to grow in numbers and standard. Five hundred and sixty Instrumental lessons are given each week by the twenty-eight staff who in turn direct over thirty-four ensembles between Year Two and VCE.

The Junior School Music Programme is continuing to thrive under the leadership of the Head of Junior School Music, Mrs. Laura Dusseljee. Mrs. Dusseljee directs our talented Junior School Choirs who once again showcased their ability at the Royal South Street competitions, accompanied by Mrs. Betty Higgs (MiC Piano), bringing home yet another Gold Shield. Mrs. Timmins (MiC Strings) continues to lead the string teachers with great energy. Poco Strings and Superstrings demonstrated the quality of this work by placing highly in the secondary school’s section of the Royal South Street competition. The Junior Band Programme is continuing to shine under the steady guidance of Mrs. Vine (MiC Bands and Brass), Dr. Lichnovsky (MiC Woodwind) and Mr. Turpie (MiC Percussion). Mr McGuffie (MiC Guitar) and Mrs Begg have significantly grown the classical guitar culture in Junior School and with Carcassi Guitar Ensemble now a fixture within the Junior School music culture.

Girton has continued to be a significant centre for AMEB examinations in central Victoria, once





again hosting many days of piano, voice, woodwind and string assessments over the course of the year. Senior School enrolments are continuing to increase, and we have maintained our culture of an ever-increasing standard of instrumental music teaching at the same time as growing the Music Department. Senior Concert Band (Dr. Lichnovsky and Mr. Turpie) and Wind Symphony (Mrs. Vine and Mr. Martin) once again raised the standard on their performance standard. Both ensembles performed at the Victorian Music Festival and were both awarded a Gold Shields for their fabulous performances. The Senior School guitar ensembles have (Rodrigo and Segovia) have continued their progress and once again combined as a massed Large Guitar Ensemble at the Senior School Ensemble Spectacular. The Bream Guitar Quartet performed earlier in the year at the Victorian Classical Guitar Association recital at Methodist Ladies College to glowing reviews and praise.

Both Senior and Junior Ensembles Concerts moved in 2015 to the Ulumbarra Theatre and returned there once again this year. Both concerts were hugely successful, with increased audience numbers and an enjoyable environment that enhanced the musical experience for performers, audience, and musical directors.

This year the Jazz Band and Big Band presented the Twilight Jazz at Girton event. The guest artist for this concert was Ms. Monique diMattina, songwriter, vocalist and pianist. We also had our own Oliver Cox (12 Aherne, 2014) return with his jazz trio "Xin" from the Victorian College of The Arts once again. The evening was hugely successful and is now very much an annual calendar event.

JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

JUNIOR SCHOOL YEAR 3/4 CHOIR

(MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE, ACCOMPANIST: BETTY HIGGS)

There are two choirs in the junior school and each rehearses for an hour each week. The Junior School

Year 3 and 4 choir comprises the entire student body from years three and four and is a non-competitive choir. The students meet for an hour a week to sing a wide variety of repertoire. They sing in parts and unison. Much of the repertoire performed is composed by Australian composers but the music of international composers is also studied. The focus is on developing a pure clear sound, good intonation and excellent diction. Students performance skills are also developed. This choir combines with the year 5 and 6 choir to perform at major events including the ensembles concert, foundation day, speech night and carols evening.

JUNIOR SCHOOL YEAR 5/6 CHOIR (MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE, ACCOMPANIST: BETTY HIGGS)

The Junior School Year 5 and 6 Choir comprises the entire student cohort in years 5 and 6 and is a non-competitive choir. The students meet for an hour a week to sing a wide variety of repertoire. They sing in parts and unison. The standard of the repertoire is more advanced than that of the Years 3 and 4 choir and includes songs of up to four parts. Much of the repertoire performed is by Australian composers but international songs are also learned. The focus is on developing a pure clear sound, good intonation, excellent diction and includes learning songs from other cultures and in other languages. Students also learn to develop their performance skills. This choir combines with the year 3 and 4 choir to perform at major events including the Ensembles Concert, Foundation Day, Speech Night and Carols evening. The choir is directed by Mrs. Laura Dusseljee and accompanied by Mrs. Betty Higgs.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CHOIR (MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE, ACCOMPANIST: BETTY HIGGS)

The Junior School Performance Choir is an auditioned choir for students in year 4, 5 and 6. These students sing more demanding repertoire and compete at competitions in Victoria. This choir was awarded the Gold Standard at the Bendigo

Competitions, the Gold Medal at Royal South Street competitions has won every competition they entered this year. This choir is recognised for their discipline, beautiful tone and excellent diction and is acknowledged by adjudicators to be one of the finest children's choirs in Victoria. The Performance Choir also performs at the Ensembles Concert, Grandparents and Special Friend's Day and assemblies. The choir is directed by Mrs. Laura Dusseljee and accompanied by Mrs. Betty Higgs.

BELLS ANGELS BELL CHOIR (MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE)

Bells Angels Bell choir is an ensemble who create sound by ringing tone chimes. The students read the music in the traditional manner, which is by using a numbering system rather than musical notation.

The Bells Angels perform at the Ensembles Concert and Grandparents and Special Friends Day, and the choir is directed by Mrs. Laura Dusseljee.

CARCASSI GUITAR ENSEMBLE (MIC: MR. JOSH MCGUFFIE & MRS. ANNE BEGG)

The Carcassi Guitar Ensemble (named after the Italian master guitarist & pedagogue Matteo Carcassi) formed in mid-2016 and takes the place of the former Junior School Guitar Ensemble. It is part of the BASS (Band and Super Strings) program on a Wednesday afternoon. It provides students with a chance to work together within a larger group, improving upon their sight-reading, technique, listening and ensemble skills and teamwork. Students learn and perform a range of extended techniques. The ensemble also incorporates a bass guitar part giving the opportunity for students learning bass to be included in the ensemble program. The ensemble plays Classical Guitar repertoire from a wide range of genres, eras and locales from around the globe including movie themes, classical and pop music. The Carcassi Ensemble performed at the Ensembles Spectacular in August and at the Guitar Recital on 12 September as well as Grandparents and Special Friends Day in Junior School on 15 September.

YEAR 3/4 POCO STRING ENSEMBLE





(MRS TRISH TIMMINS, MRS CHERYL LONG)

The Year 3/4 Poco String Ensemble consisted of 35 enthusiastic students this year. They performed at many school events, including Junior School assemblies, Ensembles Evening and Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Poco Strings competed at the Ballarat Royal South Street competitions and were awarded fourth placing with 85/100 for their performance. The students were highly praised for their advanced experience considering the age of the students, as they competed against senior secondary schools from across Victoria. Poco Strings attend weekly rehearsals with an enthusiastic attitude and a willingness to learn new music. Their sight-reading skills have vastly improved and they show great discipline when performing on stage. Some of the student's favourite pieces have been: Scooter Ride, The Abandoned Funhouse, Gap of Dunloe and Two's Company. The Yr:4 students have been confident in leading their sections, assisting with the Yr:3's and setting up for rehearsals. We have had a fun year and I look forward to another rewarding year with Poco Strings.

**YEAR 5/6 SUPER STRINGS
(MRS TIMMINS & MRS CHERYL LONG)**

Superstrings has had a rewarding year by being awarded third place with 88/100 at the Ballarat Royal South Street Competitions in September. The students competed against senior secondary colleges from across Victoria. Super strings showed discipline, teamwork, followed the conductor and played with passion. These attributes come from hard work during rehearsals and a genuine love of music. Super Strings have also performed at the Junior Ensembles Evening, several junior school assemblies and Grandparents and Special friend's day. The students have enjoyed playing a

variety of repertoire: Simple Gifts, Monster Under My Bed, Sad Jacques, Sahara Crossing and much more. I wish our Yr:6 students the best going into senior school and they will enjoy participating in Christopher Fields Strings in 2018.

**BASS BAND
(MIC DR MICHAEL LICHOVSKY, ASSISTANT MS EFFIE HAMILTON)**

BASS Band has continued to provide a high-quality experience for the beginning wind, brass and percussion students of Junior School. As is always the case in our beginner ensemble, the students are taught the fundamentals of group playing; listening (analysis), feeling pulse (spatial and body awareness), breathing and embouchure (tone production technique), and how music is constructed (analysis). There is also an emphasis on solo and small group playing known as "Solo Time", where all students learn proper performance conventions, engage in public speaking and present their work individually. 2017 marks the end of a successful engagement with particular pedagogical resources; however, constant re-evaluation of our methods and goals has led us to design what we hope will be a more engaging, quicker-paced program, drawing more substantially on the expertise brought by our four instrumental teachers in the small group lesson. Our new system will commence in 2018 and we're looking forward to an even more vibrant opportunity for our students.

**JUNIOR ADVANCED BAND
(MIC: MR DAVID TURPIE AND MRS JACQUI VINE)**

The Junior Advanced Band is a non-auditioned band, which caters for wind, brass, and percussion students who have been learning for more than 12

months. This year, the band has comprised of Year 5 & 6 students and has placed a strong emphasis on sight-reading and rhythm development by using body percussion activities. This ensemble rehearses a wide range of musical styles and also gives the students the opportunity to take on leadership roles in the band, such as learning to conduct and tune up the ensemble. The Junior Advanced Band have performed several times throughout the year including Junior School assemblies, Junior School Ensembles evening and a visit to the Bendigo Pre-School. This ensemble recently participated in a massed Senior and Junior School Concert Band master class.

SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC ENSEMBLES

**CONCERT CHOIR
(MIC: MRS SIMONE MARTIN, ACCOMPANIST: MRS CHERYL LONG)**

This ensemble is a non-auditioned choir of male and female voices that has approximately 40 members from Years 7 -12. They sing up to and including 3-part harmony. The choir often performs with a rhythm section of piano, bass and guitar: A special arrangement was made this year to include senior strings. The choir sings contemporary and world music repertoire – from jazz music to pop songs. The choir performed at Senior Ensembles Spectacular and Speech Night as well as giving performances at Performance Assemblies. Musically, the group has developed their ability to convey different styles and to sing in languages such as Latin. Vocal percussion was a feature in an arrangement of a popular Ed Sheeran song. Sight-reading is encouraged at every rehearsal and vocal technique is explored to help strengthen the sound and phrasing. Several members of the choir are singing/instrumental music students. Some have completed AMEB exams and/or VCE music and most were involved in the Senior School and Year 8 Production.

**VOCAL STAGECRAFT
(MIC: MS JENNIFER SCHATZLE, ACCOMPANIST: MRS ERIL RATHJEN)**

Vocal Stagecraft is a select ensemble of 15 students. These student singers rehearse once a week at lunchtime. The group performs works from the Musical Theatre genre including Opera, Operetta and more modern Musical Theatre. The students combine movement with their singing and learn how to move on the stage, stage etiquette and some of the different vocal techniques required to perform the songs. They have performed at Performance Assemblies, Open Days, and the Year 12 Final Assembly. It is rewarding to see the enthusiasm of the singers and the refinement in movement and part-singing skills throughout the year. Several members of the choir are singing/instrumental music students, have completed AMEB exams and have been involved in various school productions.

GIRTON SINGERS



(MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE, ACCOMPANIST: BETTY HIGGS)

Girton Singers is a non-auditioned choir for treble voices and is open to all girls in senior school. The choir is competitive and were awarded the Silver Standard at the recent Bendigo competitions and Gold at the Victorian Schools Festival. They won all their sections at the recent prestigious Royal South Street Choral competitions. This choir is recognised for their discipline, fine tone and excellent diction. Girton Singers perform at major events including the Ensembles Concert, Foundation Day, and Speech Night. The choir is directed by Mrs. Laura Dusseljee and accompanied by Mrs. Betty Higgs.

FOREVER YOUNG ROCK CHOIR

(MIC: MRS LAURA DUSSELJEE)

Forever Young Rock Choir is a community choir who have a strategic alliance with Girton Grammar School. It is for members of the community aged 64 years and older. Every year the advanced music students (a string orchestra and a rock band) from Girton Grammar School support the concert and the singers. This year the concert with Mark Seymour from Hunters and Collectors fame at the beautiful Ulumbarra Theatre was a sell-out.

SEGOVIA GUITAR ENSEMBLE

(MIC: MR. JOSH MCGUFFIE)

Named after the seminal Spanish master Andres Segovia, the Segovia Guitar Ensemble is an intermediate ensemble that provides Senior School students with opportunities to perform varied and substantial repertoire. The Segovia Guitar Ensemble is an auditioned collective that rehearses during lunchtimes on Fridays and performs regularly at school open days and events. The ensemble also periodically presents performances at Performance Assemblies, the Annual Guitar Concert and Girton's Annual Ensemble Showcase at the Ulumbarra Theatre.

RODRIGO GUITAR ENSEMBLE

(MIC: MRS. ANNE BEGG)

The Rodrigo Guitar Ensemble was formed in Term Two of 2016 to cater for guitar students in the Senior School who are beginning their guitar studies and learning to read music. This ensemble plays specifically on nylon string guitars, is non-auditioned and gives students the opportunity to develop musicianship skills in ensemble playing, sight reading, listening and teamwork. Repertoire from various eras and genres is selected carefully to match student ability. The ensemble prepares students for the Segovia Senior Guitar Ensemble to which they may be invited to join. Students rehearse on Fridays at lunchtime. In 2017 the Rodrigo Ensembles performed at the Ensembles Spectacular Concert in August, also joining with the Segovia Guitar Ensemble for one combined item. They also performed at the Guitar Recital on 12 September in the Black Box.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

(MIC: MR DAVID TURPIE)

Throughout 2017 the percussion ensemble has begun to put together a range of repertoire that uses a variety of styles. These percussion

arrangements have turned out to be challenging but also a lot of fun. The arrangements that the group is working on are to prepare them for performances in 2018. Having such a varied repertoire has made it much more enjoyable for the students as they work their way through complex pieces of music. These arrangements require them to change between several different instruments and this is something they need to do at a quick pace. Having a settled number of students has helped the percussion ensemble grow musically at a very consistent pace. As part of their rehearsal, all students are expected to rotate on various percussive instruments to ensure that one person isn't pigeonholed to a responsibility when performing musical arrangements. This variation in roles has also provided stimulus for the students to take on more challenging instrumentation when performing several percussive parts with a piece music. The goal for this year was to settle on a line-up of students that work well in an ensemble setting and display respect towards each other's learning needs. The second goal was to work up three to four performance pieces that would not only challenge the student's abilities but also help them to realise the benefits of jumping out of their musical comfort zones as well as putting in dedication and practice.

CHRISTOPHER FIELD STRINGS

(MISS RACHEL LONDON & MS EMMA WADE)

Christopher Field Strings has welcomed the opportunity to perform at a wide range of events in 2017, including the Senior School Ensembles Concert, Headmasters Assembly, and Junior School Performance Assembly. Continuing to grow in student numbers, Christopher Field Strings offers students ranging from Grades One to Seven the opportunity to play a range of repertoire, including this year's favourite: Can't Stop The Feeling by Justin Timberlake. For younger students within the ensemble, Christopher Field Strings provides valuable opportunities to develop ensemble and individual playing skills, while offering leadership skills and further instrumental skill development for older students. During 2017, all students have had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, and performance skills, while taking ownership of their learning by involving themselves in the organization and running of rehearsals. Captain Daniel Worthington has been an exceptional role model for students in this ensemble, demonstrating an elevated level of commitment, enthusiasm and leadership. 2018 holds many more exciting performance, leadership and mentoring opportunities for students in Christopher Field Strings with a new range of repertoire focusing on the development of students' ensemble playing skills.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(MIC: MR STEPHEN VINE, ASSISTANTS MRS VINE, MR MARTIN, MRS TIMMINS AND DR LICHNOVSKY)

Girton Grammar Symphony Orchestra continues to grow in standard each year. This year, the orchestra has tackled some very challenging music. The orchestra performs in a ceremonial capacity at Foundation Day and Speech Night each year,

providing processional and recessional music for these significant events. The symphony orchestra rehearses Monday from 3:45pm to 5:00pm and is open to students recommended by their instrumental teacher. Many members of Orchestra have completed A.M.E.B examinations, Orchestra Victoria Move orchestral workshops, VCE Music Solo Performance, Investigation and Style and Composition examinations. Many of the members of Orchestra also play in Chamber ensembles, and perform in the community and at a range of school events.

STRING ORCHESTRA

(MRS TRISH TIMMINS)

String Orchestra has had another busy year with many performances. The String Orchestra students look forward to performing with the Forever Young Choir each year and this year they had the pleasure to perform along with Mark Seymour. Other performances have been Foundation Day Service, Ensembles Concert and performance assemblies. Alexandra McCann & Noah Lawrence were a highlight of the Ensembles Concert, performing Oblivion by Piazzolla. String Orchestra students are highly driven and we are fortunate to have many senior students at advanced levels on their chosen instruments. These students have provided valuable input into the stylistic approach to our repertoire and have mentored the younger players in the ensemble. We farewell our Yr:12 string students: Ruby Shirres, Iona Marsden Sweeney, Jason Mekel, Ben Pignataro and Braeley Jones. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

SENIOR CONCERT BAND

(MIC: DR MICHAEL LICHNOVSKY)

While the focus has long been on the performance of ensemble fundamentals of balance, listening, pulse and tone quality, 2017 has seen the ensemble have broader goals. For the first time, the path from this ensemble through promotion into Wind Symphony was made apparent: achieving a particular technical standard, demonstrating an understanding of ensemble fundamentals, leadership, and excellent attitude. The last two of these, in conjunction with the stated goal of promotion to the more senior ensemble, have seen improvements in attendance, punctuality, efficiency of set up and group morale. The flow-on effect has been higher quality performances, in turn leading to higher morale. We are confident that the experience the students are receiving in the ensemble is the highest quality yet.

WIND SYMPHONY

(MIC: MRS JACQUI VINE, ASSISTANT MR DAVE MARTIN)

Wind Symphony has had a year of both consolidation and stylistic variety performing some challenging repertoire. The ensemble has had some very strong musical leaders and as a result, the balance and intonation within the ensemble have lifted. The ensemble members have played a wide variety of repertoire, with some of the favourites being 'Children's March', 'Implacato' and 'March of the Winter Elves'. Wind Symphony caters for students working at approximately AMEB Grade





Three and above and rehearsed each Tuesday lunchtime in the Black Box. Wind Symphony is an audition-based ensemble and has an approximate membership of 40 brass, percussion and woodwind students. Wind Symphony has performed at Ensembles Concert at Ulumbarra in Term Three, Headmasters Assembly and won a Gold Shield at the Victorian Schools Bands Festival.

BIG BAND

(MIC: DR. MICHAEL LICHOVSKY)

Despite a notable change of personnel from 2016, the Girton Big Band achieved very high standards in performance. This reflects the growing strength and consistency of the Music Department, as we are seeing younger students with higher skill levels and expectations of attitude and commitment. While all performances were successful, special mention must go to Twilight Jazz, where for the first time the Big Band played a full set of material without difficulty. Pleasingly, the members of Big Band have appeared more engaged and enthusiastic than in previous years. This is partly due to professional reflection on how the ensemble is directed and opportunities provided, but is again equally representative of the students expecting higher standards of themselves and their ensembles.

CHAMBER MUSIC

(MIC: MRS TRISH TIMMINS)

YEAR 8 DOLCE STRING QUARTET

(MIC: MRS TRISH TIMMINS)

The Yr. 8 String Quartet has comprised of Emma Sin, Eliza O'Sullivan, Serryn Eenjes, Ruby Fletcher & Noah Lawrence. They have rehearsed on Tuesday's afterschool and have worked on a broad range of repertoire from contemporary to baroque music. The quartet has performed at the Women's International Day, Zonta Club, Headmaster's Tours, Open Days, Bendigo Health and school assemblies. The Dolce Quartet has also been fortunate to have worked in partnership with Orchestra Victoria and attending regular rehearsals directed by Mr. John Noble. The students have a passion for chamber music and enjoy the challenges of working as a team.

THE CELLO ENSEMBLE

(MIC: MR PHILIP KELYNACK)

The cello ensemble is open to all senior school 'cellists and is structured to develop chamber music skills and ensemble rhythm. Music is chosen to facilitate the distinct levels of standard of the participating members. Occasionally simpler or more difficult parts are adapted to include everyone. This year the ensemble has worked on a variety of styles from Bach to Mozart, through to the romantic era and on to some pop music. The ensemble has also worked on some famous orchestral excerpts like William Tell, Debussy's La Mer and Tosca by Puccini. This year the cello ensemble has delivered several highly successful performances at the Leila Watson championships finals, the headmasters tour here at Girton as well as performance assemblies.

THE BREAM GUITAR QUARTET

(MIC: MR JOSH MCGUFFIE)

The Bream Guitar Quartet is an auditioned ensemble open to the most advanced guitarists in the music programme. The Bream Quartet is an extension of the Segovia Ensemble, enabling further development of the most experienced and technically accomplished members. The quartet specialises in substantial classical guitar repertoire, ranging from 18th and 19th-century Spanish music to South American and modern works written specifically for guitar ensemble. The quartet performed to great acclaim at the Annual Guitar concert and the Annual Ensemble Showcase at the Ulumbarra Theatre. The Bream Quartet also made their debut in 2017 at the Victorian Classical Guitar Society's Annual Ensemble Showcase, alongside ensembles from some of the state's top schools. The ensemble aims to give students a forum to advance their technique, musicianship and chamber music skills and to facilitate extensive, detailed study of some iconic repertoire in the Western guitar canon.

FLUTE ENSEMBLE:

(MIC: MS EFFIE HAMILTON)

This small extension ensemble is available to students who are already participating in Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony or Concert Band. Flute Ensemble consists of students from years 7-12 and rehearses for one hour per week during lunchtime on Wednesday. At Flute Ensemble rehearsals, a wide range of year levels work alongside each other on a weekly basis; therefore, Flute Ensemble is an essential opportunity for Year 10, 11 and 12 flautists to demonstrate leadership and guidance for their younger peers in a small group environment. Students have the opportunity to try out the piccolo, alto and bass flutes and have worked through a large variety of repertoire this year. Flute Ensemble performed at Foundation Day, the Bendigo Pre-School and the Woodwind Recital. Most students have completed AMEB examinations.

CLARINET ENSEMBLE:

(MIC: MRS BELINDA KROIS)

The Clarinet Ensemble consists of six students in years 9-11. We rehearse on Mondays at 1.30-2.30pm and work on repertoire to extend the clarinets musical skills in a small ensemble setting. The Clarinet Ensemble has performed at Foundation Day, Performance Assembly and Open Day.

GIRTON CHAMBER CHOIR:

(MIC: MS JENNIFER SCHATZLE, ACCOMPANIST MS CHERYL LONG)

The Girton Chamber Choir was formed in 2014. It is an auditioned mixed choir of 15 students. Students sing a wide range of repertoire from early music and a capella to jazz choir arrangements. The choir has performed at Foundation Day, Open Days and Performance Assemblies and was invited to perform for the Musician of the Year. Many of the Chamber Choir choristers are singing students and have completed

AMEB examinations and/or VCE Music this year. Several members of the group were involved in the

Senior School Production and in the Male Choir à la Ten Tenors item for the Year 12 final assembly.

THE GIRTON JAZZ BAND

(MIC: MR JOSH MCGUFFIE, ASSISTANT MR JACOB MCGUFFIE)

The Girton Jazz Band is an auditioned extension ensemble related to the Girton Big Band. Students participating in the Jazz Band explore group and solo improvisation via the detailed study of jazz music from the 20th Century onwards. This includes harmonic analysis, the role of functional harmony and the art of exploiting this knowledge to unearth creative and musical improvisations. Students work intensively on developing a musical rapport with each other and on the study of ensemble skills to create fluid and artful performances. Students also explore the myriad variations in tone colour and articulation that are unique to jazz and their respective instruments. 2017 has seen the Jazz Band present numerous performances in both school and public contexts. The Jazz Band provided an authentic, period-appropriate soundtrack to Girton Grammar's 1930s reinterpretation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", arranging and transcribing the score themselves. The Jazz Band also collaborated with Australian Jazz great Monique DiMattina for performances at Girton's annual Twilight Jazz evening. The Jazz Band also regularly performs throughout the school year at open days, ensemble evenings and official functions.

NETBALL

SENIOR SCHOOL

(MIC: MS BELINDA MOORE & MRS CARMEL HAMILTON),

JUNIOR SCHOOL – (MS LINDA GIBSON)

This year, the Girton Grammar Junior School Netball Club had two teams playing netball at the Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association. These teams were Girton Orange (Year Five) and Girton Blue (Year Four). Owing to the numbers in the Netball Club, Year Sixes were combined with Year Sevens and played Senior School netball in 13/ Under A and B.

Next year, due to the strong numbers of students who participated in the NetSetGo programme in 2017, the Club hopes to have a Year Three and Four – Net Set Go and Netta team participating in the BSNA competition, together with a Year Five and Year Six team.

The combined Year Six team represented the Junior School Netball Club in a variety of games and competitions over the 2017 netball season.

The team participated in the Sandhurst School Championships in Bendigo. After competing against local Primary Schools and winning the Grand Final against St. Thereses, the team then travelled to Swan Hill to compete against teams from Sunraysia, Sunraysia South and Mallee Divisions. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the team was unable to progress to the School Sport Victoria State Finals.

After successfully competing in the Netball Victoria



Primary Schools Championships in Bendigo in August, the team was invited to compete in the finals day at the State Netball/Hockey Centre on September 6th. The team played extremely well on the day against several metropolitan schools. They played seven games, winning two, drawing two and losing three. An outstanding effort to make it that far.

In August, the annual Girton Grammar School vs Ballarat Grammar School netball match was played in fine spirit. Both the Year Five-Six team and the Year Six Representative team won their matches and Girton Grammar School was able to win back the coveted shield. Olivia Morris (6Je) and Olivia Boef (6A) were voted Girton's Best Players on the day.

This season, our 2 Junior School teams have demonstrated improvement in skills and court play. The team members and coaches are proud of their achievements over the year. With an increase in numbers, Girton Grammar Junior School Netball Club are looking forward to another great netball season in 2018.

SENIOR SCHOOL
(MICS MRS. LINDA GIBSON & MRS CARMEL HAMILTON)

This year we had 7 Senior School netball teams competing at Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association. Of those teams, two made the finals with Girton Sapphires winning the Section 4 Grand Final. The level of netball played at BSNA has enabled our netballers to play more competitive netball, resulting in much improved skills in many of the girls.

2017 results:

Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association – Senior School

Section 2A Girton Gold – 3rd

Section 3A (revised) – Girton Maroon 8th

Section 3A (reserve) Girton Navy – 5th

Section 3B Girton Green – 7th

Section 4 Girton Sapphires – 1st

13/Under A Girton Diamonds – 7th

13/Under B Girton Emeralds – 11th

This year we also had five senior teams playing in the midweek Flora Hill Netball competition (including two Year twelve mixed teams.)

The Girton students have enjoyed the experience gained against an older playing group, with the mixed Zoomball team playing off in finals in their first season.

Representative netball started the year with the Sandhurst Netball Tournaments in Bendigo. The junior teams had great results; 7A finished 3rd, 7B finished 5th, 8A finished 3rd and 8B finished 3rd.

The Intermediate A team finished 4th and the B team finished 2nd. These tournaments provided strong competition with an awesome effort by the girls who should be proud of their achievements.

ICCES was the next highlight on the calendar for the netball girls, with this competition instilling a sense of pride and the challenge to be a part of the team. All the girls train and work hard wanting to be competitive. The Year 7/8 team played extremely well throughout the tournament and took out first place. The Intermediate girls were unlucky in losing to Highview by one goal in the Grand Final after stellar performances throughout the two-day tournament. The Senior Team played hard, uncompromising netball and took the honours by defeating Goulburn Valley Grammar School by two goals in the Final.

Term 3 began with the senior team travelling to Castlemaine and winning the friendly hit out against Castlemaine Secondary College.

The representative teams travelled to Melbourne for the Victorian Schools Netball Championships. On qualifying day, the junior and Intermediate teams both finished in 3rd position with the Senior Girls finishing in 4th position in their sections.

To finish off the tournaments for the year we played our Intermediate and Senior teams against Ballarat Grammar School in Ballarat. As always competition was tight with both Girton teams losing competitive matches.

Votes have been cast and MVP's for 2017 are congratulated for their consistent efforts over all tournaments.

2017 MVP's are: Year 7/8 team Angelica Jack (8Je), Year 9/10 team Sophie Shoebridge (10Jo) and the Senior Girls team Laura Valentine (12F).

The Girton Netball Academy once again took place this year. Nineteen students took part in the Academy which is a ten session program run at school by Sarah Wall and the Netfit team. The girls met for an early start every second Monday morning with everyone acknowledging that it was a great opportunity for students to enhance their skills and gain further experience and knowledge of netball.

Overall, it's been a very exciting year for Girton Netball. Well done to all teams!

We would like to thank all coaches, managers, umpires, teachers and parents for their continuous support.

ORIENTEERING

(MIC: MR DAN SLATER)

Girton Senior School students participated in the Victorian Orienteering Championships. Serryn Eenjes (8Jo) achieved a first place in the 14A Division with a winning margin of 15 minutes. Michael Loughnan (11R) was placed 5th in the Open Boys Division and Lily Ivey (7R) achieved 1st Place in the 13A Division.

Serryn and Michael were selected in the Victorian team to compete in the National Orienteering Championships in Bathurst from 22nd September to 1st October.

Serryn won the U14 long distance championship.

Serryn was also selected in the Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering team.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

(MIC: MRS WINSOME WASTELL)

Public Speaking Club operated on a weekly basis and developed public speaking skills in students from Years 7 – 12.

Lucy Kitching (8A) represented the school in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition and placed second.

The Inter-House Public Speaking Competition took place in Term 3 and again was an opportunity for





students to show their considerable public speaking skills. The quality of the speeches was very high and the competition was hard fought. The audience in each of the venues was treated to well-crafted speeches and excellent delivery. Students from the Public Speaking Club and Senior Prefects ran each of the venues for the competition, providing roles of MC and timekeeper. Six staff members from the English Department adjudicated. Results were as follows:

Overall Results:

1st: Millward

2nd: Aherne

3rd: Frew

4th: Riley

5th: Frew

6th: Jones

Best Speakers:

Year 7: William Hamilton (Je)

Year 8: Seyeon Ko (A)

Year 9: Zoe Hilson (F)

Year 10: Chaelim ko (A)

Year 11: Bronte Maruff (Je)

Year 12: Alexander Nielsen (M)

PROGRAMMING CLUB

(JUNIOR SCHOOL)

(MIC: MR DAVID RUDDICK)

The Junior School Programming Club was conducted once a week at lunchtime during Term One and Term Three of 2017. Students work with the Scratch Programming language created by MIT. The participants work through a series of modules that teach the basics of Programming such as loops and variables which enable them to program simple computer games. The Club is a great introduction to programming and can lead on to more complex languages and applications. In 2017 for the second time, students were also offered the chance to participate in the NCSS Programming Challenge, a nationwide competition facilitated by the University of Sydney. The Challenge is designed to teach students the fundamentals of the Python language. Seven students from the Junior School participated. Mia McGovern (6R) completed the Intermediate Challenge with a perfect score.

ROWING

(MIC: MS ANNETTE REID)

The Girton Rowing Club has had another successful season. This season we were privileged to have ex Olympian Ms. Sarah Heard as Head Coach, supported by Mr. Liam Rea. Ms Heard focused on encouraging students to improve their technical skills. She worked in conjunction with the team of coaches from the Bendigo Rowing Club to ensure that all students were engaged, enjoying their activities, developing a sense of teamwork and learning in a positive environment. Thirty-five

students participated in this co-curriculum. Due to the large group of senior students departing last year the group was low in numbers of senior students. This affected the clubs ability to compete in Regattas. Two senior students competed throughout the season and one of our junior crews competed at the Essendon Regatta. Rowing Captain, Khanyile Khumalo (12A), supported by Vice-Captain Ella Fraser (11M), encouraged and mentored younger crews in the Novice Development Programme. Their drive and leadership this season was admirable.

For students to compete at Regattas successfully, they must train a minimum of three times a week. Students must be totally committed to their sport and be able to prioritise their various commitments to achieve this. This level of obligation is a challenge for many students. Next season more boys should be encouraged to take up this co-curriculum activity.

The continued support of and association with the Bendigo Rowing club has been greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to the volunteer coaches who have given many hours of their time to our Girton students. This season their support to transport students and movement of boats on and off the water has been invaluable.

Sadly, we will be losing Khanyile Khumalo (12A), Benjamin Hitchman (12A) and Jemima Morris (12A). Best wishes are extended to these students as they commence their tertiary education.

SCALE AND GAME

(MIC: MR SCOTT LANGAN)

Scale and Game was a popular choice for fans of board games like RISK and Scrabble. Over fifty students participated over the course of the year. Thirty-three regular attendees from Year 7 – 11 enjoyed competing with and against each other. Fun was had by all in this enjoyable, social Co-curricular activity.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

(MIC: MRS JANE REABURN)

This co-curricular activity provides opportunities related to Science and Engineering that are not able to be facilitated in a timetabled science class.

Twelve Year Ten students in the Science & Engineering group focused on the Amazing Spaghetti Machine competition run by the Engineering Department of Melbourne University. The contest is an annual competition for school students in Year Ten in which knowledge and skills in Mathematics, Science, Engineering, and project management are put to the test in the creation of a 'spaghetti machine' — the Italian term for an overly complex machine or device that is used to perform a relatively simple task. The students spent many long nights, weekends and days during the school holidays designing, building, testing and fault-finding the many energy transfers required to "Can it

for the Planet". The student's task was to build a machine to crush an aluminium can, with bonus points for crushing more than one can. Judging was at the Melbourne University in August and all of the hard work and dedication was rewarded when they were announced as winning The Technical Excellence Award, The Audience Choice Award and also Overall Winner.

Other students from Years 8-12 who were inspired by the annual Spaghetti Machine contest continued to design, redesign and construct a prototype of an overly complex coin-donation machine for the Regional Discovery Science Centre.

SQUASH

(MIC: MR ROD SMITH)

The Squash Co-Curricular was run throughout 2017 on Tuesday afternoons at the Bendigo Squash Club Courts on Barnard Street. Students from years 7 to 11 took part and enjoyed improving their skills throughout the year. Skills were given a considerable boost when in August, students visited the annual Bendigo International Squash Tournament and received specialised coaching from several International players.

Special thanks also go to Avril Price (11Jo) for her service as Captain of squash this year!

STUDENT 2 STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAMME WITH THE SMITH FAMILY

(MIC: MRS WINSOME WASTELL)

Seven students from Years 8 and 9 commenced this program, which is run in conjunction with The Smith Family. Our students are trained to help support younger readers from local primary schools to develop reading skills. Over a period of 18 weeks and twice weekly phone calls, mentors work with their young readers and help promote confidence, skill and an enjoyment in reading. The program continues to be one that promotes reading skills and relationships.

Now in its eighth year, our partnership with The Smith Family continues to be very strong.

Students involved in the program were:

Simone Stephens (9F), Ella Fletcher (9Jo), Chelsea Dillon (9Jo), Jessica Iuliano (9M), Emma Greenall (9R), Mila Grant (9Je), Ki Li Clark (8A).

SWIMMING

SENIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING

(MIC: MR DAN SLATER)

The 2017 Girton House Swimming Carnival was conducted at the Bendigo Aquatic Centre on Friday 17th February. The Spirit Cup, full of colour, chants and choreographed dancing was won by Frew House. Jenkin were crowned the overall swimming champions for 2017.

Students who were successful at the Carnival



represented Girton at the Sandhurst Division Swimming Carnival at the Bendigo Aquatic Centre. Students who won their events at this level went on to compete in the Loddon Mallee regional swimming event at Swan Hill. Seven individual swimmers and four relay teams progressed through to the School Sport Victoria (SSV) State Swimming Finals, which were held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Our Girton swimming team also travelled to MSAC to compete in the Independent Country Co-Educational School (ICCES) Swimming Carnival

Individual Results

Girton House Carnival – Age Champions

- 13 Year Female: Sarah Harris (7M)
- 13 Year Male: Charlie Whitsed (7R)
- 14 Year Female: Equal Champions - Hayley Jacobsen (8Jo) & Mila Grant (9Je)
- 14 Year Male: Angus Mayes (8Jo)
- 15 Year Female: Lauren Cox (9Jo)
- 15 Year Male: Xavier Morrissey (9A)
- 16 Year Female: equal Champions Abby Rowley (10M) and Evelyn Crawford (10Je)
- 16 Year Male: Sebastian Wood (10R)
- 17 Year Female: Lily Pridham (11F)
- 17 Year Male: Jarrod Slot (11A)
- 20 Year Female: Clair Crawford (11Je)
- 20 Year Male: Bailey Edwards (12M)

Sandhurst Div. Age Champions:

- 16 Years – Sebastian Wood (10R)
- 17 Years – Jarrod Slot (11A)
- Open – Claire Crawford (12Je)

Placed 1st at Loddon Mallee regional Finals:

- 13 Years – Charlie Whitsed ((7R)
- 15 years – Xavier Morrissey (9A)
- 16 Years – Sebastian Wood (10R)
- 17 Years – Jarrod Slot (11A)
- Open – Claire Crawford (12Je), Bailey Edwards (12M)

Placed at State Finals:

- Sebastian Wood (10R)
- Year 10 Boys relay team achieved 2nd Place

ICCES Age Champions:

- Year 7 – Charlie Whitsed (7R)
- Year 8 – Harry Downing (8F)
- Year 10 – Sebastian Wood (10R)

Girton Swimming Champion 2017

- Years 7 – 9: Charlie Whitsed 97R)
- Years 10 – 12: Sebastian Wood (10R)

JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING (MIC: MRS CARMEL HAMILTON)

HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year the Girton Grammar Junior School Swimming Carnival was held at Bendigo East Swimming Pool on Friday February 24th. We had a beautiful day and the Spirit Cup performances were hard to determine a winner, however Frew House took the honours. The Champion Swimming House continued for another year with Jenkin House

bringing home the trophy.

Junior School Swimming Results:

1st	Jenkin	1030 points
2nd	Riley	809
3rd	Jones	795
4th	Aherne	736
5th	Frew	699
6th	Millward	627

Age Champions were:

- 9 Year Girls: Kate Crilly (3F)
- 9 Year Boys: Fraser Allan (3F)
- 10 Year Girls: Zara Paul (4R)
- 10 Year Boys: Hunter Wright (4A)
- 11 Year Girls: Miriam Henry (6F)
- 11 Year Boys: Hunter Boswell (5Je)
- 12 Year Girls: Claire Hamilton (6A)
- 12 Year Boys: Angus Macafee (6R)

Campaspe-Goldfields-Sandhurst Division Championships:

2017 Division swimmers and their events

- Hunter Wright (4A)
- 3rd in Division 9/10Yr Freestyle/3rd in Division 9/10Yr Backstroke
- Zara Paul (4R)
- 2nd in Division 9/10Yr Freestyle / 3rd in Division 9/10 Yr Backstroke
- Hunter Boswell (5Je)
- 2nd in Division 11Yr Freestyle/1st in Division 11 Yr Backstroke
- Miriam Henry (6F)
- 6th in Division 11Yr Freestyle/5th in Division 11 Yr Backstroke
- Angus Macafee (6R)
- 3rd in Division 12/13 Yr Freestyle/ 2nd in Division 12/13 Yr Butterfly

Olivia Boef (6A)

- 3rd in Division 12/13 Yr Freestyle
- Matthew Saxon (6F)
- 3rd in Division 12/13 Yr Backstroke
- Alice Hamilton (4A)
- 4th in Division 9/10 Yr Backstroke
- Lincoln McKern (5R)
- 1st in Division 11 Yr Breaststroke/ 2nd in Division 11 Yr Butterfly
- Patrick Byrne (6Jo)
- 2nd in Division 12/13 Yr Breaststroke
- Elise Richards (6Je)
- 4th in Division 12/13 Yr Butterfly
- Claire Hamilton (6A)
- 2nd in Division 12/13 Yr Backstroke/4th in Division 12/13Yr Breaststroke
- Relay participants:
- 9/10 Yr Boys: 1st in Division Hunter Wright (4A), Oliver Schelosky (4Jo), Max Miller (4A), Fraser Allan (3F)
- 9/10 Yr Girls: 2nd in Division Zara Paul (4R), Alice Hamilton (4A), Bronte Flanagan (4Je), Lauren Brunner (4Jo)
- 11 Yr Boys: 1st in Division Hunter Boswell (5Je), Lincoln McKern (5R), Nathan McKern (5R), Nick Rowley (5M)
- 11 Yr Girls: 2nd in Division Miriam Henry (6F), Willow Barnett (6Je), Olivia Karamaloudis (5R), Estella Breen (5M)
- 12/13 Yr Boys: 2nd in Division Angus Macafee (6R), Joshua Smith (6Jo), Matthew Saxon (6F), Patrick Byrne (6Jo)
- 12/13 Yr Girls: 1st in Division Olivia Boef (6A), Claire Hamilton (6A), Elise Richards (6Je), Olivia Green (6A)
- Medley Relay Participants





Open Boys: 1st in Division
 Angus Macafee (6R), Hunter Boswell (5Je),
 Patrick Byrne (6Jo), Lincoln McKern (5R)

Open Girls: 2nd in Division
 Olivia Boef (6A), Claire Hamilton (6A),
 Elise Richards (6Je), Olivia Green (6A)

Winning at the Regional Loddon Mallee
 Championships in Swan Hill, the following
 swimmers then represented Girton and the
 region at the State Swimming Championships in
 Melbourne:

Hunter Boswell (5Je) in 11 Yr Backstroke finishing
 5th in Victoria

Hunter Wright (4A), Oliver Schelosky (4Jo),
 Max Miller (4A) and Fraser Allan (3F) in the Boys
 9/10 Year Freestyle Relay finishing 7th in Victoria

Hunter Boswell (5Je), Lincoln McKern (5R),
 Nathan McKern (5R) and Nick Rowley (5M) in the
 Boys 11 Year Freestyle Relay finishing 7th and in the
 Boys Open Medley Relay finishing 9th in Victoria.

TABLE TENNIS

(MIC: MR RALPH ALGREEN-USSING)

The Girton Table Tennis Co-curricular activity has had a very busy and rewarding year with between twenty and twenty-five students attending each week. The students continue to improve under the coaching of Mr. Paul Green and the leadership of the Table Tennis captain Abbey Saxon (10F). After two years away I was very impressed to see the improvement in the players under the coaching of Paul Green and the direction of the acting MIC Mrs. Frederick Tonkin. Students vary in ability from beginners to State level players and the beginners quickly gain skills and confidence.

Girton competed in two competitions this year. At the ICCES Table Tennis Competition at MSAC in term one, Girton improved on their overall placing of second in 2016 to be clear winners this year, winning three of the four sections and coming second in the other. The senior boys, junior boys and junior girls all went through the competition undefeated while the senior girls made it to the final despite missing one of their best players to the swimming team. In the local Sandhurst competition in term three we entered teams in all six divisions, coming first in Year Nine and Ten Boys and first in the Year Nine and Ten Girls, second in the Year Eight Girls and also the Year Eight Boys, fourth in the Year Seven Boys and fifth in the Year Seven Girls. Excellent results.

The Year Nine and Ten boy's and girl's teams now compete in the Regional Finals and if successful go onto play in the State finals later this year.

We would again like to thank the Bendigo District Table Tennis Association for the use of the Eaglehawk Table Tennis Stadium after school every Friday and Mr. Paul Green who has again given his time each Friday afternoon to coach the students. The standard of play continues to improve under his dedicated instruction.

The Co-Curriculum championships took place in October and it was a very competitive event with many close matches. The sportsmanship was excellent and the outcome of the doubles and singles championships were as follows: The Senior Boy's championship was won by Xavier Green (10A), nudging Isaac Green (10A) into second place. The Junior Boy's Championship was won by Ethan Sheperd (9A) with runner up being Jordan Barclay (9Jo). The doubles Championship was won by Isaac and Xavier Green. The senior female Championship was again won by Abbey Saxon (10F) with the runner up Kate Douglas (10F). The Junior Female champion this year is Annalise Broom (8A). The most improved player went to Seyon Ko (8A). The Encouragement award going to Lasith Kulasekara (8Je) for his continued effort and improvement. Congratulations must go to all competitors who worked very hard for their success. 2017 has been a wonderful year for Table Tennis and all participants have truly enjoyed their Friday sessions and we look forward to further success in the Regional and hopefully State finals.

TEDX

(MIC: MRS CHRISTINE PHILLIPS)

TEDx Bendigo: Connected was held at Girton Grammar School in the Black Box on the 20th October 2017. A TEDx event is a local gathering where live TED-like talks and videos previously recorded at TED conferences are shared with the community. The conference was organised by a small student committee as part of the co-curriculum with the assistance of 4 staff. This year's committee was innovative, committed and gained insight into the organisation, marketing and preparation of an event. A students' role was to liaise with the speakers, assist with the co-ordination of the event including marketing, securing sponsorship, and to assist with finding solutions to problems we hadn't even thought of. They were creative and made TEDxBendigo a special, exciting and memorable event.

This year's theme was 'Connected': A collection of speakers presented innovative commentary on the importance of connectedness in a modern society.

- Kate Lawrence: How we can understand who we are and why we are here and in turn, how this can lead us to better self-expression.
- Joe Ciancio: How to maintain human connection in a future world of artificial intelligence.
- Joanne Baker of Righteous Pups: Every underdog needs a pack.
- Julie Lovell: Use performance as a mode of connection and creativity.
- Sam Byrne a business analyst and Paralympic athlete: A unique perspective about what really needs to be considered in making a new connection between two people.
- Jim Cowie: How music strengthens the communication highway between left and

right brain hemispheres – and why this is a good thing.

The audience was also entertained by talented musicians from the School which certainly enriched the morning. TEDxBendigo certainly provided staff, students and the audience with a morning of sharing inspirational ideas.

THEATRE TECHNICIANS

(MIC: MR. JOHN MCMILLAN)

The Theatre Technicians have had a busy year providing technical services in audio, lighting and audio visual across both Junior and Senior School. This generous and dedicated team of students provide technical services to both internal and external events as diverse as weekly Assemblies, Musical and Drama Productions, Foundation Day and Speech Night and even recording the School Orchestra and Choirs at Austereo Studio. The Theatre Technician members are spread across Years Seven to Twelve. Nevertheless, the team was spread very thin a few times this year with overlapping events. Junior School Grandparents Day was spread across three venues owing to inclement weather, whilst the other side of High Street Aherne House in Senior School hosted their own Grandparents Day. We were operating four simultaneous audio systems with different technical crews rostered for each event. Having six House Dinners in a two week period, with overlap with the Junior School Production of "The Lion King" also had many of the Theatre Technician Team contributing huge hours in providing the needed technical services.

After ten years of service, Grant Davis retired from work at the end of Term Three. Numerous members of the Theatre Technicians have been inspired by Grant's knowledge of theatrical lighting, and he will be sorely missed.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

(MIC: MRS VIV BATH)

Tournament of Minds is a problem solving programme for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of the following disciplines:

- Science Technology
- Language Literature
- Engineering Maths
- Social Sciences

Tournament of Minds is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way.

Tournament of Minds has been one of the fastest growing national, inter-school programmes to challenge the youth of Australia and is now expanding internationally. It provides for the ever-increasing demand for sophisticated,



educational opportunities. The rapidly increasing and widespread involvement of thousands of participants throughout Australia and internationally, demonstrates that Tournament of Minds is not only a worthwhile investment in the education of our youth, but is also an integral part of our collective future.

This year we had eight teams compete at Regional level at La Trobe University in Bendigo. Four secondary teams and two primary teams won their division and went on to compete in the State Final in Melbourne.

At the State Final three of our six teams won their division and two of the teams achieved Tournament Honours. The three winning teams went on to compete at the Australasian Pacific Final on the 28th October in Adelaide. Our teams competed admirably and represented their state and school admirably.

Girton Grammar School has an excellent reputation amongst the Tournament of Minds network in Australia. This is not just because of our performances but also the way our students conduct themselves when representing their school.

Thank you to Michaela Hulme (11A), our TOM 2017 Captain, who has supported and encouraged all students this year. She has been an excellent role model and support to all students in Tournament of Minds. Thanks also to our wonderful Tournament of Minds staff – Mrs Maruff, Mr Ruddick, Mr Thomas, Mr Parry, Mrs Rebbeschi and Mrs Tobias. I would also like to acknowledge the continued involvement of Alex Nielsen (12M). He has worked tirelessly to improve our approach to this co-curricular throughout his years of involvement.

I am extremely grateful to the amazing senior students who have been involved in Tournament of Minds for many years and who keep returning to offer their support. We are also fortunate to be supported by some wonderful parents who have encouraged the students at every stage.

We look forward to an equally rewarding year in TOM in 2018.

VOLLEYBALL

(MIC: MR MATTHEW JAMES AND MR TAKAHIRO MAEDA)

GENERAL DETAILS:

65 students/8 teams were involved this year in Volleyball. There were 12 teaching staff acting as coaches and/or managers. Two Old Girtonians returned to coach along with one parent. Seven students ran the training sessions for many of the Year 7, 8 and 9 teams. Several Girton students were accepted into the Bendigo Volleyball Academy for 2017/2018.

Five Girton teams travelled to Melbourne to play in the 2017 Victorian Volleyball Schools Cup. Three of these teams will be playing in the 2017 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in December. The Girton Open Boys will try for another year to be the best

team in Australia after winning a bronze medal in the Honours Division at Victorian Volleyball Schools Cup. The Under 17 girls will also be competing in Honours at the event after winning a silver medal in the Honours Division.

During the 2017 Victorian Schools Cup three Old Girtonians volunteered their time to assist with coaching the teams. They were: Evan Jenkins (2013), Michael Mayes (2014) and Patrick Haythorne (2016). Patrick continually assisted with the Volleyball Girton program throughout the year, along with Liam Rea (2016) and Mikaela Erwin (2014). Monica Ipsis returned for another year to assist at States after coaching with Laura Roberts (2013) at Nationals in 2016. All the students gained skills from the expertise of these individuals.

TEAM/GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS:

AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL SCHOOLS CUP (DECEMBER 2016)

Open Boys Honours 6th, Coached by Mr. Rick McWaters

Open Girls Division 1 14th, Coached by Cate Brewin, Managed by Kerrie Stewart

U17B Honours 5th, Coached by Mr Michael Mayes and Managed by Mr Taka Maeda

U16G Division 1 11th, Coached by Mr Matthew James

U15G Division 1 10th, Coached and Managed by Ms Monica Ipsis and Ms Laura Roberts

2016 Bendigo Volleyball Association Spring Season Results

U15B: Girton Blues – 1st

U15G: Girton Stars – 1st

2017 Bendigo Volleyball Association Autumn Season MVP

U15G: Ellex Skinner (9F) – 1st, Georgia Cox (7J) – 2nd, Amelia Bowles (8J) – 3rd

U17G: Lauren Cox (9J) – 2nd, Lucia Bowles (10J) – 3rd

2017 Bendigo Volleyball Association Autumn Season Results

U15G: Girton Stars – 1st

U17G: Girton Diamonds – 1st

2017 VICTORIAN VOLLEYBALL SCHOOLS CUP

Year 8 Girls Div 1 Coach: Mr Elliot Beks (9M), Manager: Mr Matthew James

Year 9 Girls Div 1 Coach: Mrs Monica Ipsis

Year 10 Girls Div 1

Manager/Coach: Mr Sam a'Beckett

U17 Girls Honours (Silver)

Coaches: Mr Patrick Haythorne and Mr Michael Mayes, Manager Mrs Deirdre Tunzi

Open Boys Honours (Bronze)

Coaches: Mr Greg Hilson and Mr Evan Jenkins, Manager: Mr Taka Maeda

SCHOOL SPORTS VICTORIA

Year 8 Boys won the School Sports Victoria Volleyball Final in November of 2016. The team was coached by Mr Harrison Keck (11A).

Year 9 and 10 boys came second at the School Sports Victoria Volleyball Final in Term Two 2017. The team was coached by Harrison Keck (11A).

Year 7 and 8 girls made it through to the finals to be held in November.

WRITER'S GROUP

(MIC: MR SCOTT LANGAN)

There were nine students enrolled in Writer's Group in 2017. These students were each supported and encouraged to enter creative writing competitions. Three students, Rachael Hamilton (7J), Sanjana Jijo (8F) and Lasith Kulasekara (8J) were published in the Bendigo Writer's Festival young writer's anthology The Vox Bendigo Book 2017. Many of the students also participated in the Bendigo Young Writer's Group, held monthly at the Bendigo Library. Students from the Writer's Group co-curricular activity also had works published





internally, in The E-Link and the Girtonian.

YOGA

(MIC: MS TERRIE DEMPSTER)

Yoga has become fully embedded in to the fabric of the Girton Grammar co-curriculum programme. In 2017, one session per week was held and places for this were competitively sought after; with 15 students in regular attendance. Students walk away from these sessions feeling grounded and at ease; it is often remarked that they "feel so much more relaxed". Many students also note that building core strength and increasing flexibility has helped support them with other sports.

In 2018, it is possible that a second weekly session of Yoga will be added.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MS RACHELLE FISHER

HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Engaging in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community. It has a lasting, positive impact on their development and character building. Volunteering for community service allows students to gain life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a much needed service to those who need it most.

Before the Academic School year commenced 154 of our students volunteered at the Australia Day Community Celebrations at Lake Weeroona. They supported the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst by selling drinks, face painting, making balloon animals and engaging children in different activities. This year the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst were very grateful for our student's commitment and support. The President, Mr George Waters, came to an Assembly and presented our Year 12 students with a cheque for \$2000. This money was taken to Thailand with our students participating Alternative Schoolies trip to the Father Ray Foundation and to purchase much needed items for the children living at the Father Ray Foundation.

This year we have made a connection with Eat Up. Eat Up is an Australian not-for-profit service that helps feed hungry school kids in our community. Over 1,000,000 school children in Australia go without dinner or breakfast every day and our students have helped by making over 2,000 sandwiches during the year that have been delivered to local schools. This connection will continue next year as it is a much needed service.

In Junior School 10 students committed to Shave for A Cure. The SRC organised a Crazy Hair Day with a gold coin donation and they raised \$13100. That is an amazing donation from Girton Grammar School for the leukaemia Foundation for research into Blood Cancer.

During Camps Week 38 students from Year Ten participated in the Community Service Program. Twenty-five students spent the week at Righteous Pups. Other placements included, Conservation Volunteers, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, local

Kindergartens, local Primary Schools, Mirrindong, La Trobe University, Bethlehem Home for the Aged and Bendigo Airport.

40 students registered for Relay For Life raising \$1354.38 and walked or ran a total of 872 laps which is 348.8 kilometres.

370 of our students from both Junior School and Senior School attended ANZAC Day Memorial Services in Bendigo, Castlemaine, Sutton Grange, Eaglehawk and surrounding districts. Many of our students sang in Choirs, played in bands and marched with cadets and other community groups at these Services.

The Dr Harry Little Kinder Fair was in May and 71 of our students volunteered for the day to make badges, sparkly wands, paint faces and much more.

On the last Sunday in May 270 Senior School students spent three hours door knocking in Bendigo and Castlemaine collecting donations for the Red Shield Appeal. Junior school students spent the month of May competing again each other to see which class could fill their red pig money box with the most money donating their lunch order change and pocket money. The Girton Grammar School students collected \$9,484.80 and this is \$2,193.20 increase from 2016.

During Term Three, 44 volunteers gave up their lunchtime to support the local ZONTA Club to assemble Birthing Kits. The lives of many women and babies in third world countries have been saved through this project. Zonta Birthing Kits provide for a clean and safe birthing environment for women without access to professional medical care.

The Vietnam Memorial Service was held in August and 33 of our Junior School and Senior School students attended to pay their respects. Our School Captains, lay a wreath on behalf of our students.

Over the September School Holidays 15 students volunteered at the Australian Gymnastics Clubs Carnival. They were scorers, announcers, they worked at Information Booths and sold tickets.

For the seventh year in a row, 10 Girton students assisted the elderly residents of Mirrindong Nursing Home around the Bendigo Show. Without the help of our students this outing would not be possible for the elderly residents. The students support the staff by pushing the wheelchairs around to the different exhibits.

Whilst many ran in the Bendigo Health Fun Run raising funds for much needed equipment for the new Bendigo Hospital, we also had 10 of our students entertaining the crowds dressing up as Mascots.

Late November, after exams are finished, eleven of our Year 12 students will travel to Cambodia & Pattaya, Thailand with Mrs Fisher and Mr Robertson. They will continue to strengthen the strong relationship with the Father Ray Foundation. This year the Year 12 students have been asking for the donations of backpacks for the children at the Day Care Centre and sunglasses for the

students at The Father Ray School for the Blind. They took many donations with them! Whilst there our students will be working within the Foundation in many ways. They will participate in English conversation classes, take some children from the School for the Blind on an outing to the beach, spend an afternoon feeding and playing with the children at the Day Care Centre. The Junior School ran a Cake/Slice/Pie Drive and raised \$2000. This money will go towards purchasing clothes, medicine, bedding and much needed food items for the Father Ray Foundation. It will also ensure that each child at The Children's Home receives a gift on Christmas Morning.

MARKETING & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MR MARK BEEVER

HEAD OF MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

In an age where brand awareness is omnipresent we are constantly striving to enhance and reflect the "Girton Brand." In our case the brand is the sum of our Mission and Values and the culture created by them. Our marketing revolves around the school's Mission, Values and Culture and this will always be the case.

Maintaining or steadily growing student numbers ensures the school's financial viability while limiting the need for significant fee increases. It also allows us to provide the best possible education and a broad range of opportunities for our students.

The marketing of our events such as productions and performances, while attracting audiences also gives students the opportunity to be a part of professionally orchestrated photo and video shoots and participate in publicity campaigns including interviews in both print and broadcast media. Highlights included commissioning a steam train and railway station for the backdrop of the photo and video shoot for "The 39 Steps" and taking over a hair salon for the day to create images for the Year 8 Production, "Hairspray".

We are proud of our students' successes both individually and collectively and devote a great deal of energy towards publicising their achievements in the local and metropolitan media. As the landscape changes, resources at media outlets are shrinking so we find ourselves needing to supply images and text to ensure exposure.

In 2015 the Marketing and Community relations team continued to manage and or support a significant number of events for the School and the upgrading of documents in both printed and electronic formats continues for every aspect of the school.

Ostensibly the department is akin to a communications agency, supplying design, words, images and video with the vast majority of this work produced in house by various members of the



team. We look forward to continuing to serve the School and its Community across 2017.

GIRTON GRAMMAR PARENTS' & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION – (GPF)

Girton Parents and Friends Association has had an active year in support of Girton Grammar School and its staff and students.

Together with Friends of Performing Arts, we were delighted to be able to donate more than \$56,000 to the school this year, covering two-thirds of the cost of the school's purchase of much needed permanent seating for the Black Box on the senior school campus.

We held a very successful welcome to new parents in the first week of school, with more than 110 parents and staff attending. This year for the first time, we held a Trivia Night that filled Higgs Hall and we are planning a repeat in 2018. Our thanks go to all families who attended, but especially Dave Gibbs, a school parent and our entertaining quiz master for the evening. The Trivia Night was also the culmination of the Girton Parents and Friends major raffle, our main fundraiser for 2017. Our thanks go to our generous major raffle sponsor, Bendigo Travel and Cruise Centre.

The Association would not exist without the support and hard work of the committee members who this year include Paula Saxon as our hardworking Secretary and Public Officer, Christine Brunner as Vice President, Adrienne Speakman who began the year as our Treasurer, before handing over to Kathy Hutchings, plus committee members Kim Hitchman and Emma Fletcher. I thank them all for their commitment to the school and their support throughout the year.

We also acknowledge Friends of Performing Arts president Rosemary Bailey, treasurer Sally Bellingham, secretary Karen Lavery, assistant secretary Maureen Cross and the tireless members of the group who have supported Girton Grammar School's music and drama departments and their productions throughout the year. Specific fundraising activities included a Mother's Day movie fundraiser at the Star Cinema, a fundraising Bunnings BBQ and the selling of programs at performances.

Friends of Volleyball and Friends of Hockey are currently not operational but families with connections to these sports are encouraged to join Girton Parents and Friends in 2018.

As usual the Friends of Junior School group, headed by Rebecca Ciancio, have held a popular range of "friend-raising activities", including the gala Girton's Got Heart evening at Fortuna, the annual Meet the Teachers event, annual movie night and swimming sports BBQ. We thank all the active members of Friends of Junior School for their support of the stalls that allow our younger students to buy gifts

for their parents for Mother's and Fathers' Day, and for their efforts on Grandparents and Special Friends day.

Girton Parents and Friends would like to thank all those who have stood for office or attended meetings throughout the year. We acknowledge and welcome the support of the Board, the headmaster and attending staff, who have patiently answered all our questions and given generously of their time and experience.

Parents and carers of students are warmly invited to join Girton Parents and Friends in 2018, to meet other engaged families, take part in enjoyable social activities and help support school activities. Next year will be Girton's 25th anniversary, which will make the traditional Girton Fair on Sunday April 22 an even bigger event than usual. We encourage families to come along or take part in any way they choose.

Our first Girton Parents and Friends meeting for 2018 will be in the first week of term 1. We hope to see you there.

OLD GIRTONIANS' ASSOCIATION (OGA)

MRS ALEX FISHER
ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

The Old Girtonians' Association (OGA) continues to grow and to connect past students from Bendigo and beyond and to nurture the School's history.

This year, five reunion events brought together Old Girtonians' from near and far. The events were informal in nature, allowing maximum opportunity for guests to reminisce about their old school days and to rekindle friendships.

The annual OGA Careers event for Year 12 students was held on 6th June, 2017. Guest speakers were Old Girtonians, Dr Turk (dentist) and Rebecca Edwards (curator at NGV). President of the Bendigo Law Association, Tom Wolff, also spoke.

Year 12 students with an interest in the relevant field introduced each speaker, hosted them throughout the event, and as always, the students were full of questions for the speakers and received sage advice related to their futures, professionally and personally.

A special school tour was held during the September School Open Day for a group of Old Girtonian boarders and day-girls from the 1960's. The group laughed and chattered their way around the Senior School and Junior School, in part, guided by current students who enjoyed connecting with their School's history and being regaled with tales of cold showers and a leaking roof in the Girton College boarding house.

To commemorate the 25 Year anniversary of Girton Grammar School next year, founding Chair, Mr John Higgs and Old Girtonian Ms Erynn Lewicki

(nee Trewartha, OGA 2010) are working on the compilation of the School's history with support from the OGA. The publication will capture the history of the school from where the previously published history left off in 1984 until present day.

This year, Board member, Mr Graham Stewart, was welcomed as an Honorary Associate Member to the OGA for 10 Years of service to the Board and four staff members (Ms Lorraine Ellis, Mr Martin Jenner, Mr John McMillan and Ms Sharon Monaghan) were welcomed as Honorary Associate Members for 20 years of service to the School.

Each year the OGA awards a departing Girtonian with a \$2,000 Scholarship to support a student in the next stage of their life. The 2017 OGA Departing Girtonian Scholarship was awarded to Emma Blackford (12 Frew).

Emma has the level of focus that will be required for her to fulfil her ambition of becoming a commercial airline pilot and upholds many of the values of the school that make her a deserving recipient of the OGA Scholarship.

In her Scholarship interview, Emma talked about how much she has appreciated being in a learning environment where her teachers and her peers wanted to see her do well.

The OGA Scholarship will assist Emma in undertaking the cadetship that she hopes to do next year and the OGA wishes her well on her journey to become a pilot.

Old Girtonians are spread all over the world and the OGA loves hearing what members are up to. Stories about Old Girtonians are posted on the OGA Facebook page and website (oga.girton.vic.edu.au) and past students are encouraged to get in touch with the OGA to tell their story.

The OGA Facebook page now has nearly 1,700 Friends and is a great way to keep up to date on OGA and School events. ([facebook/oga.girton](https://www.facebook.com/oga.girton)).

Comments or suggestions for the OGA or donations to the School archives can be directed to Mrs Alex Fisher, Alumni Manager, at any time on (03) 4408 5985 or alexfisher@girton.vic.edu.au.

2018 OGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Saturday 17th March 2018 – 6pm
OGA 10 Year Reunion, Brougham Arms Hotel

Saturday 28th April 2018 – 6pm
OGA 20 Year Reunion, Brougham Arms Hotel

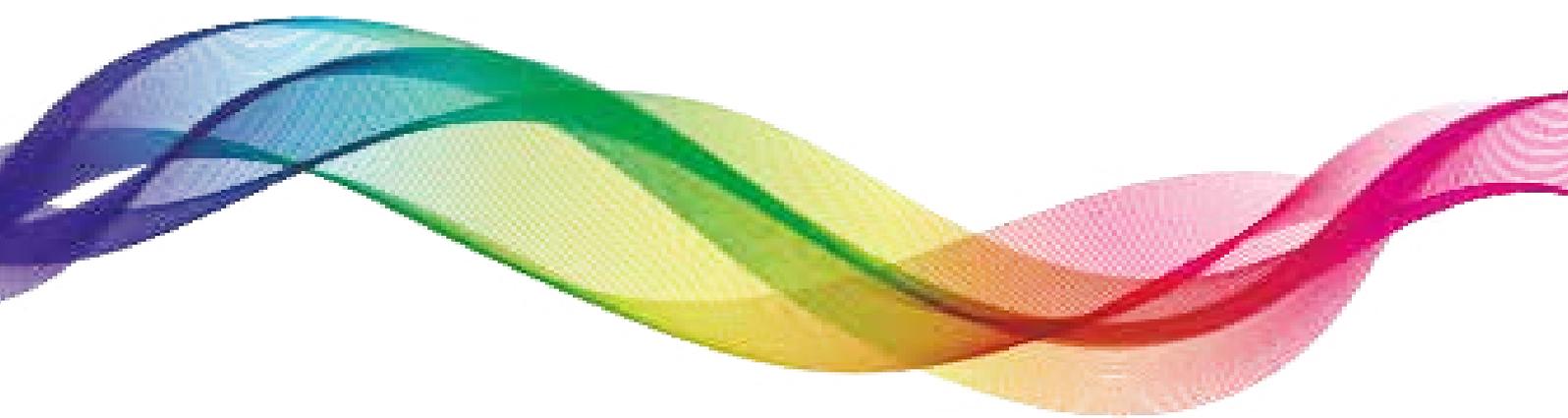
Saturday 26th May 2018 – 6pm
OGA 30 Year Reunion, Brougham Arms Hotel

Friday 7th September : 10am – 12pm
OGA Morning Tea and School Tour

Saturday 8th September 2018 – 6pm
OGA 5 Year Reunion, Brougham Arms Hotel

Friday 14th December 2018 – 7pm
OGA 1 Year Reunion, GPO Tapas Bar and Restaurant





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